AFTER ALL, I HAVE YOU
PLUTO
URASAWA X TEZUKA
A NEW VISION BASED ON ASTRO BOY – 'THE GREATEST ROBOT ON EARTH'
BY NAOKI URASAWA AND OSAMU TEZUKA
CO-AUTHORED WITH TAKASHI NAGASAKI
SUPERVISED BY MACOTO TEZKA
WITH THE COOPERATION OF TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS

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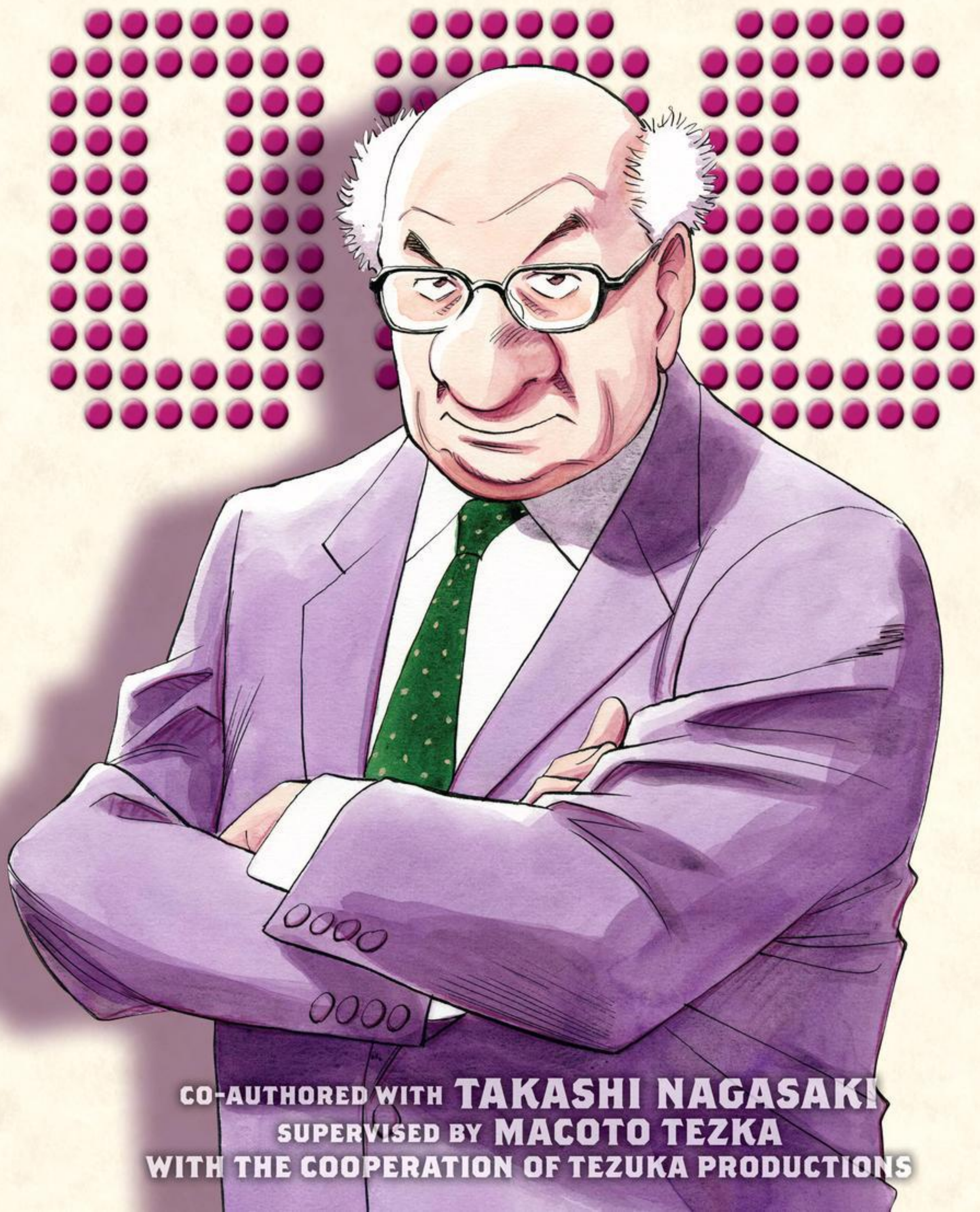

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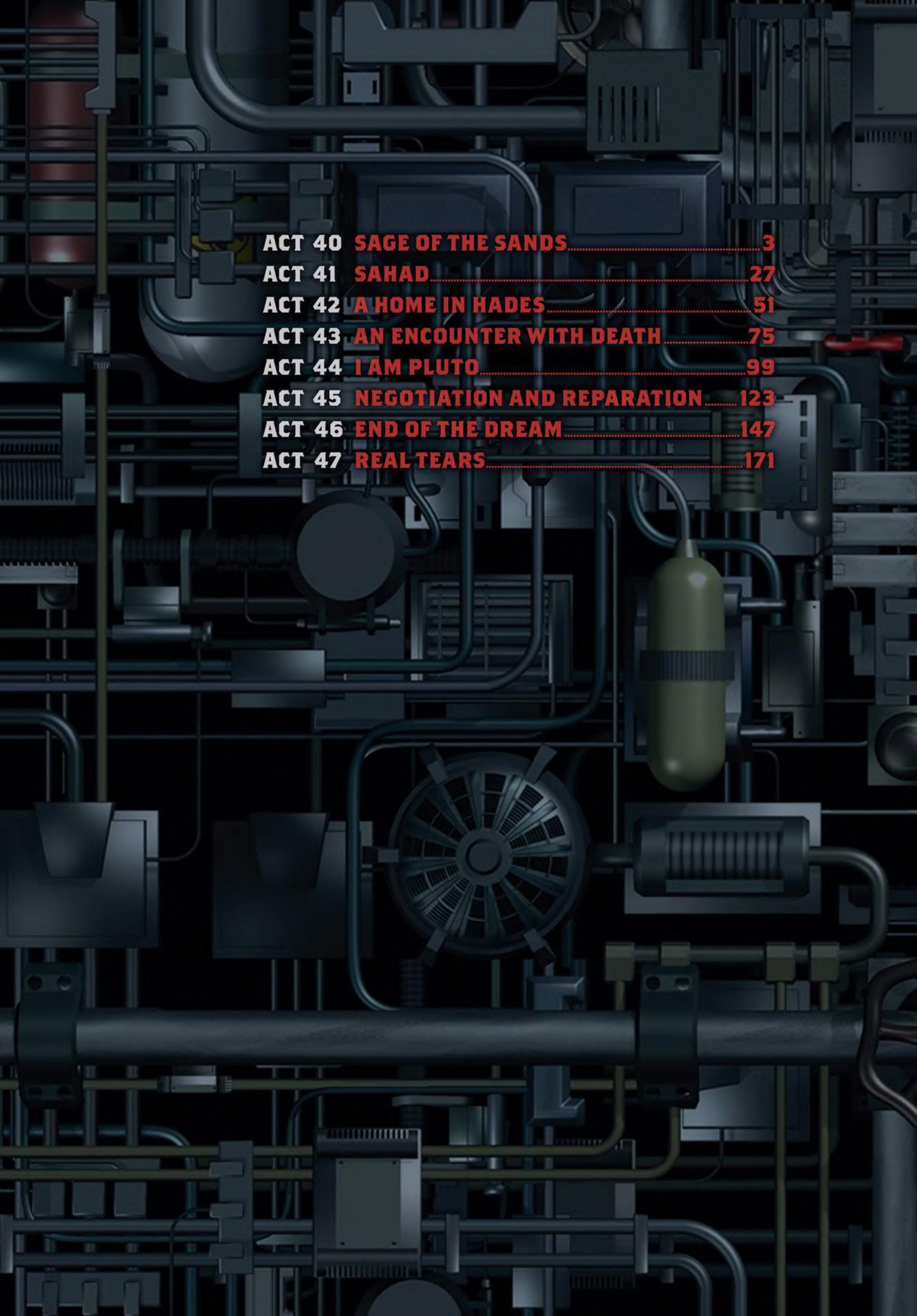

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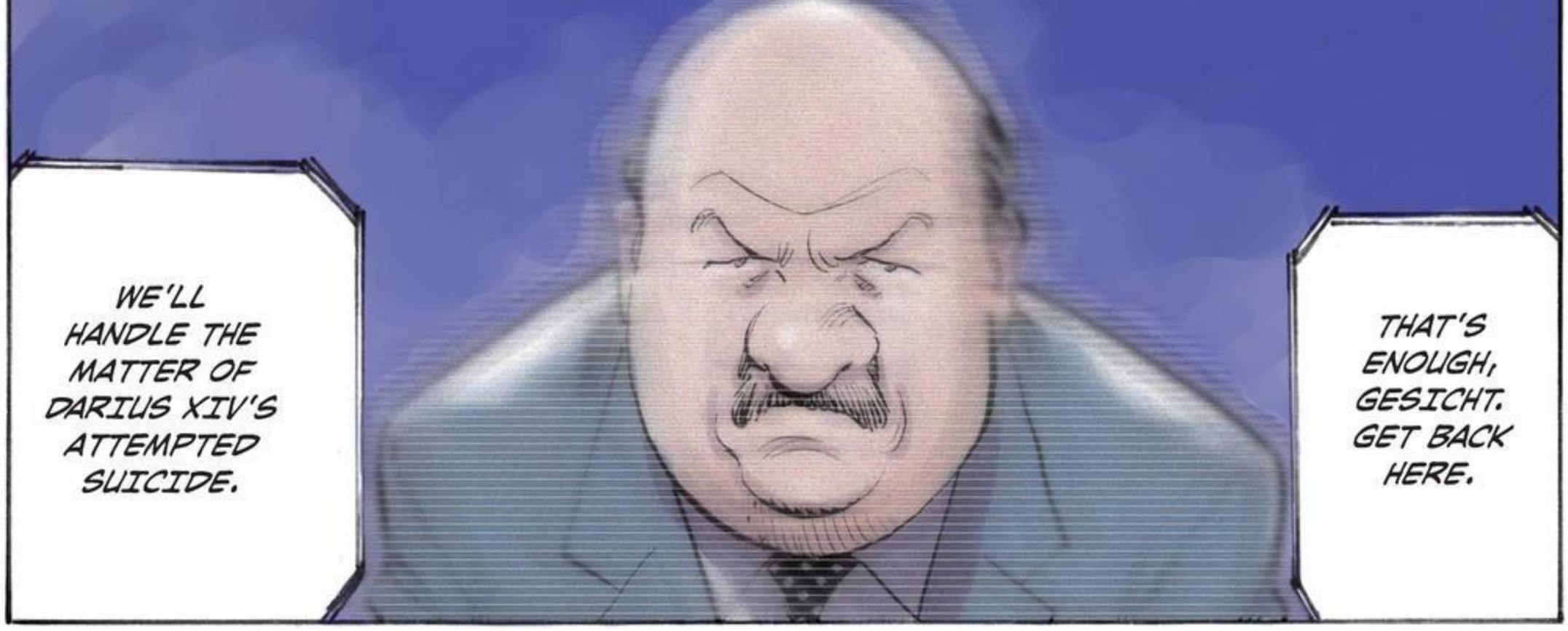
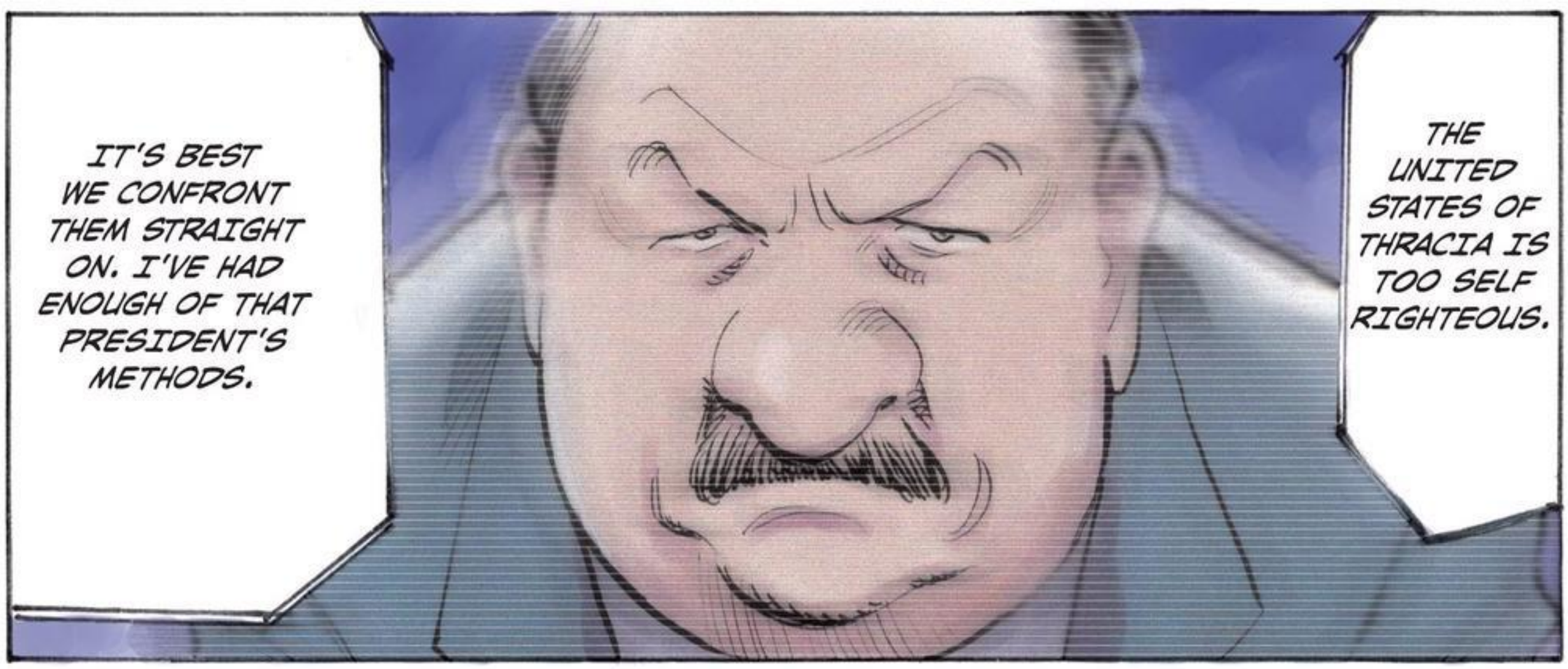
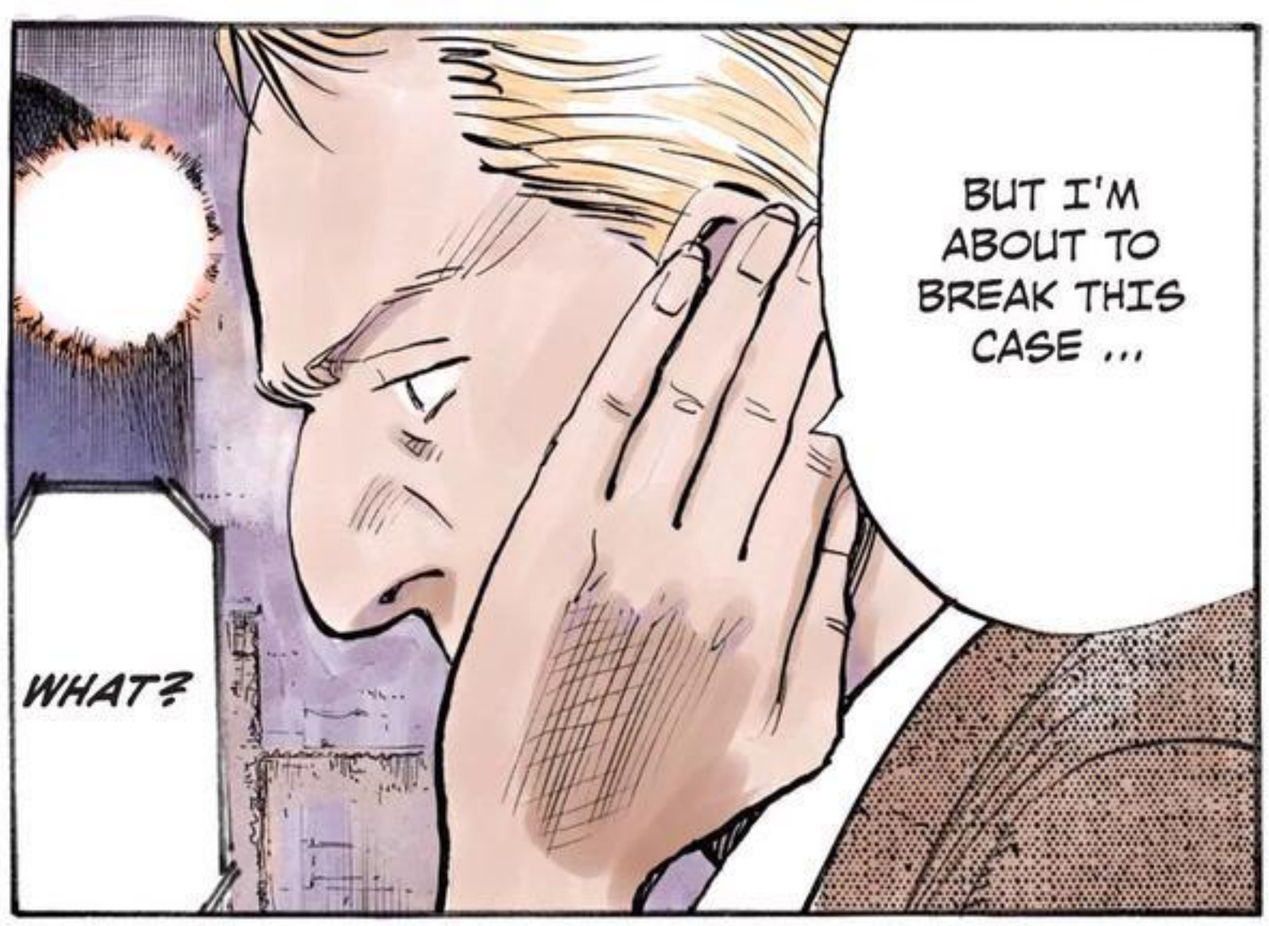

WE'LL HANDLE THE MATTER OF DARIUS XIV'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.
THAT'S ENOUGH, GESICHT. GET BACK HERE.


IT'S BEST WE CONFRONT THEM STRAIGHT ON. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT PRESIDENT'S METHODS.
THE UNITED STATES OF THRACIA IS TOO SELF RIGHTEOUS.

THANK YOU, SIR...


BUT I'M ABOUT TO BREAK THIS CASE ...
WHAT?

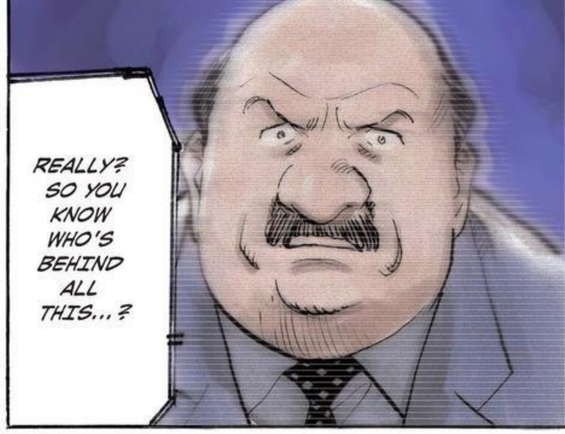
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN'S WORRIED THAT YOUR ZERONIUM ALLOY MIGHT NOT HOLD UP AFTER TAKING THAT CANNON BLAST.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS YOUR PHYSICAL CONDITION, GESICHT.

SAMARKAND,
REPUBLIC OF PERSIA

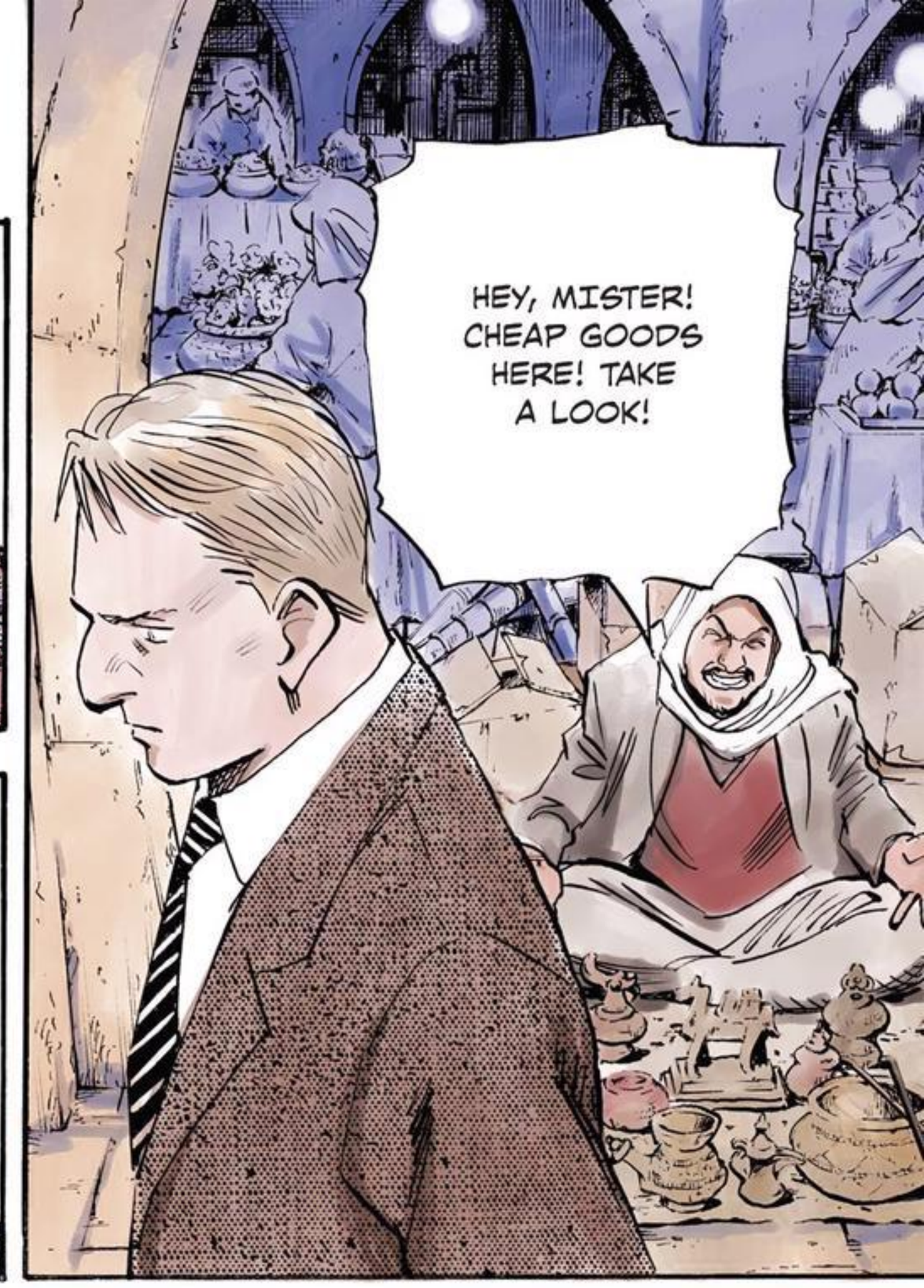
GESICHT!!

Act 40

SAGE OF THE SANDS



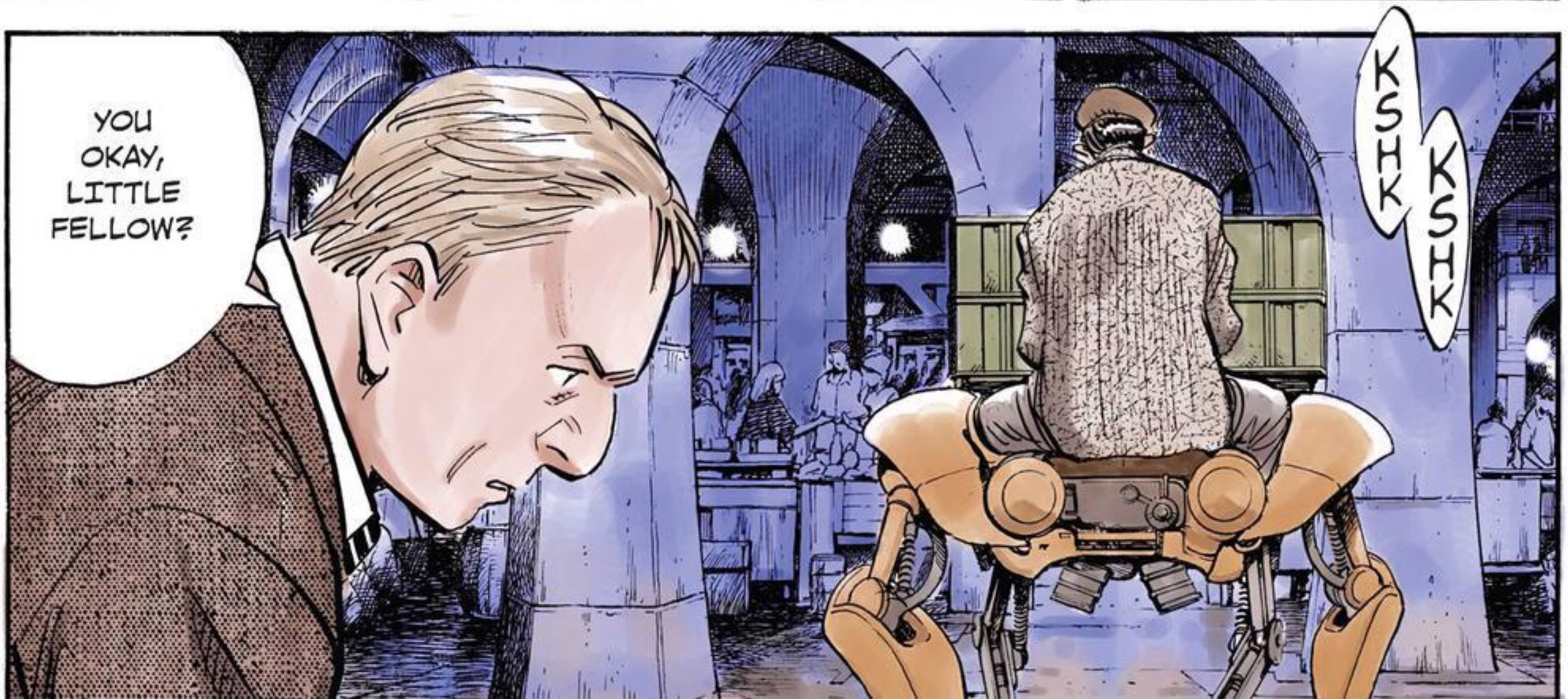
THE REAL DEAL, WOVEN BY *HUMANS*, NOT ROBOTS!
THIS RUG'LL AMAZE YOU, KIND SIR!

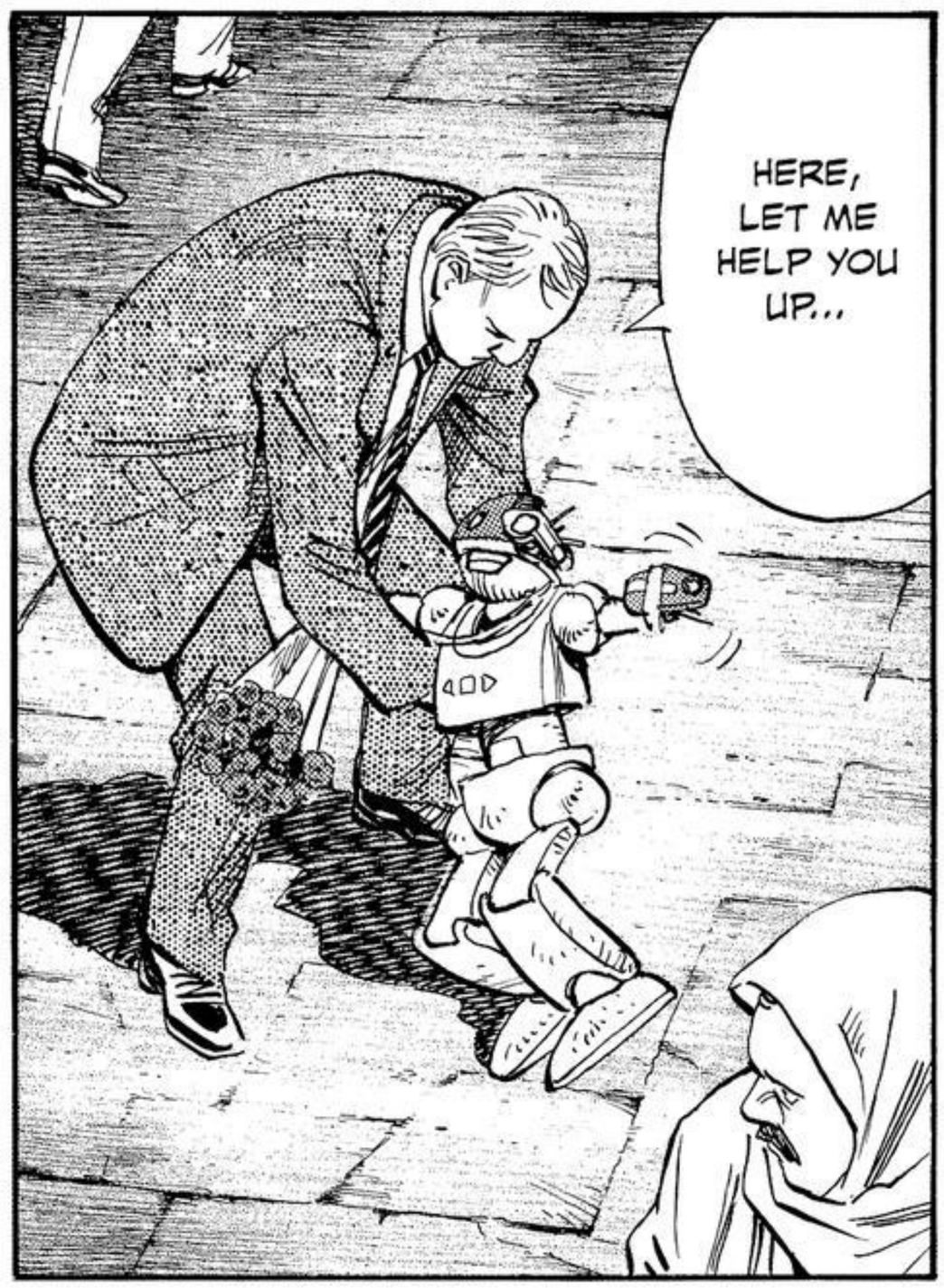

HEY, MISTER! CHEAP GOODS HERE! TAKE A LOOK!

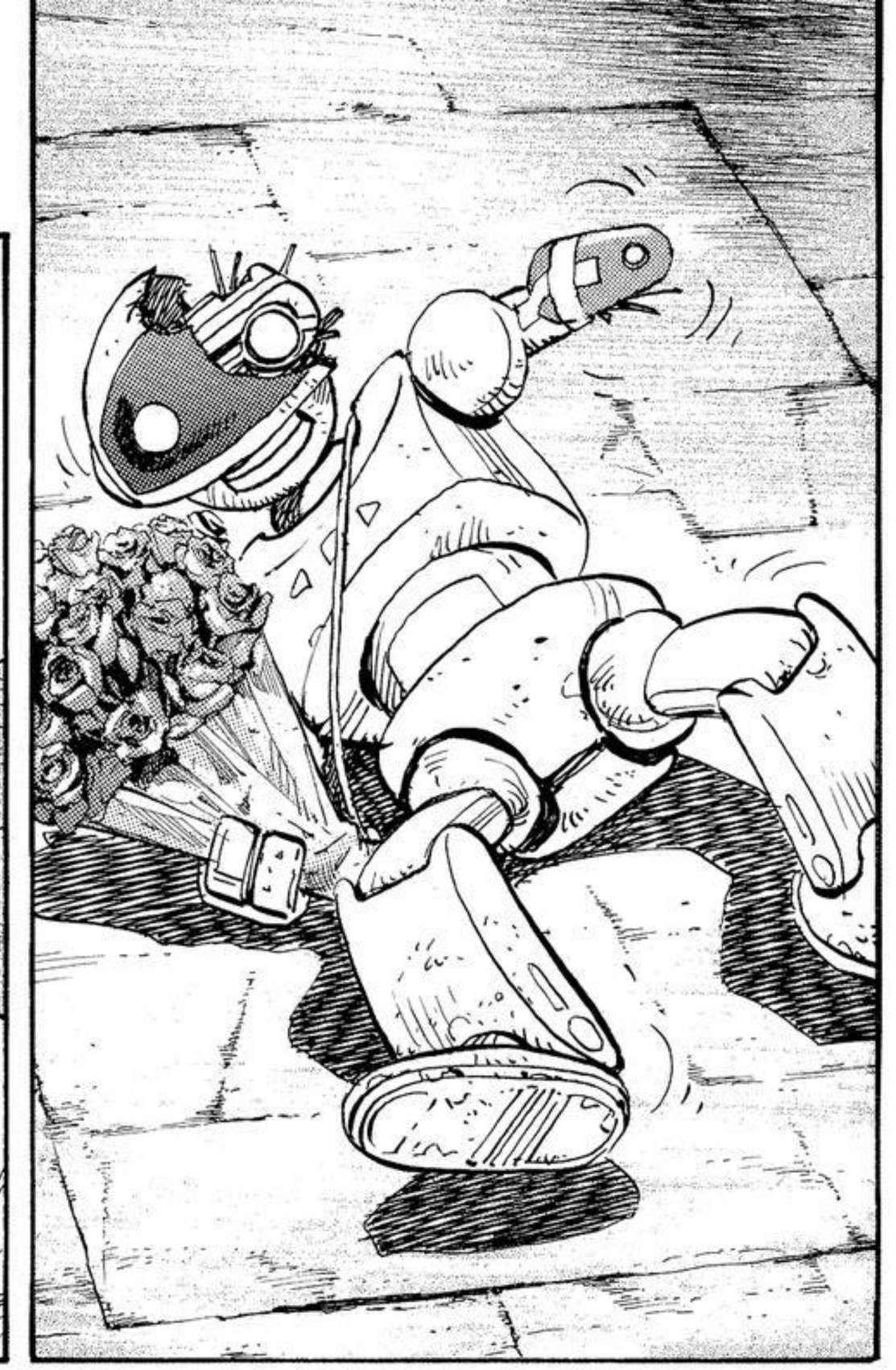
LOOK! STILL GOOD AS NEW!!
HEY, MISTER! I GOT LOTS OF WAR SURPLUS ELEC-TRONICS HERE.
300-
100-

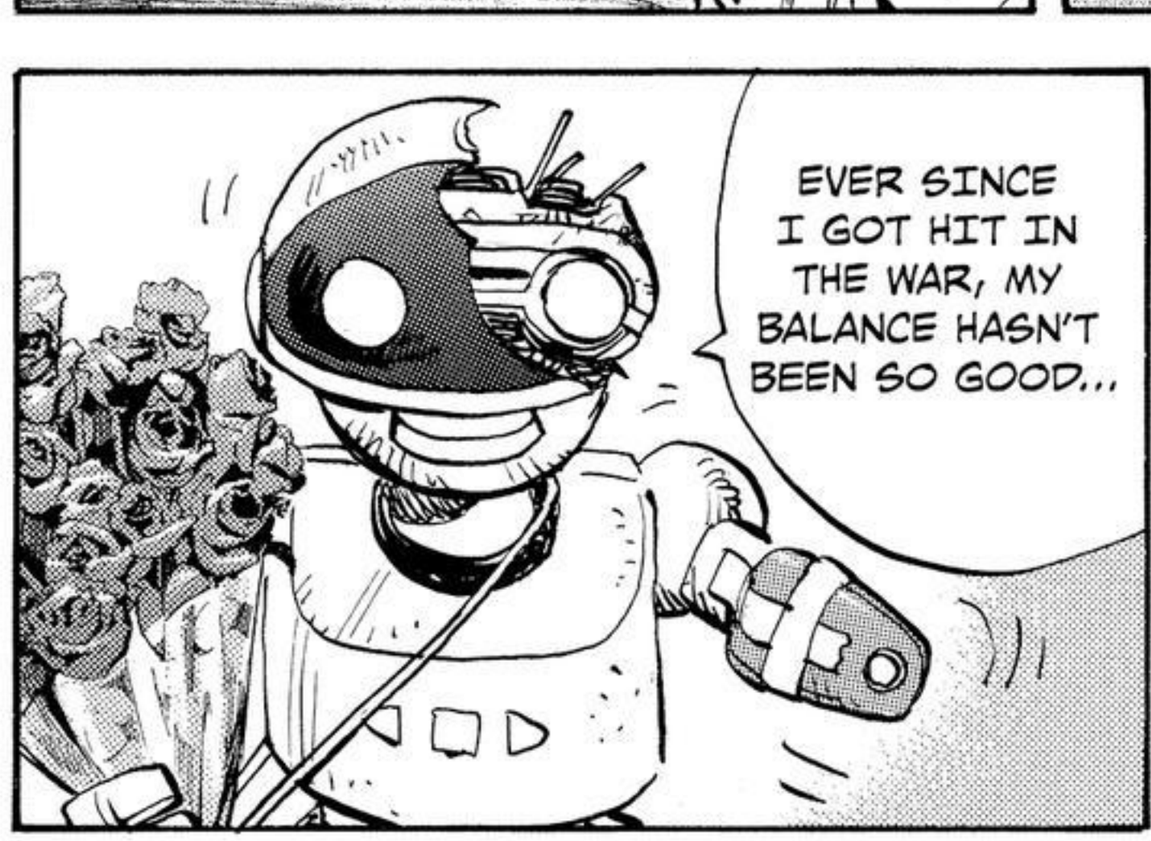
!!
THUD
OUT OF THE WAY, YOU!

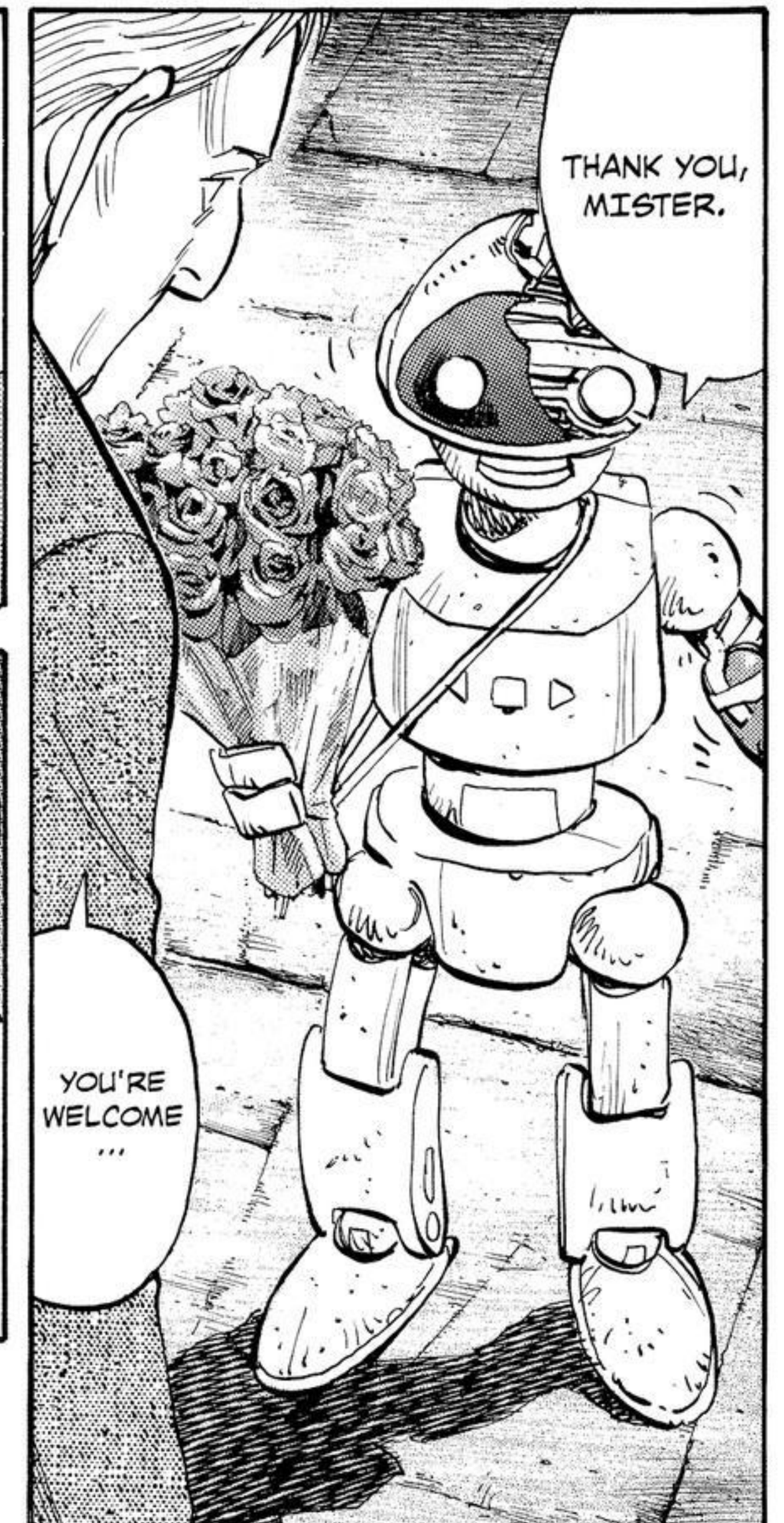
HEY, MISTER!


YOU OKAY, LITTLE FELLOW?
KSHK
KSHK


HERE, LET ME HELP YOU UP...



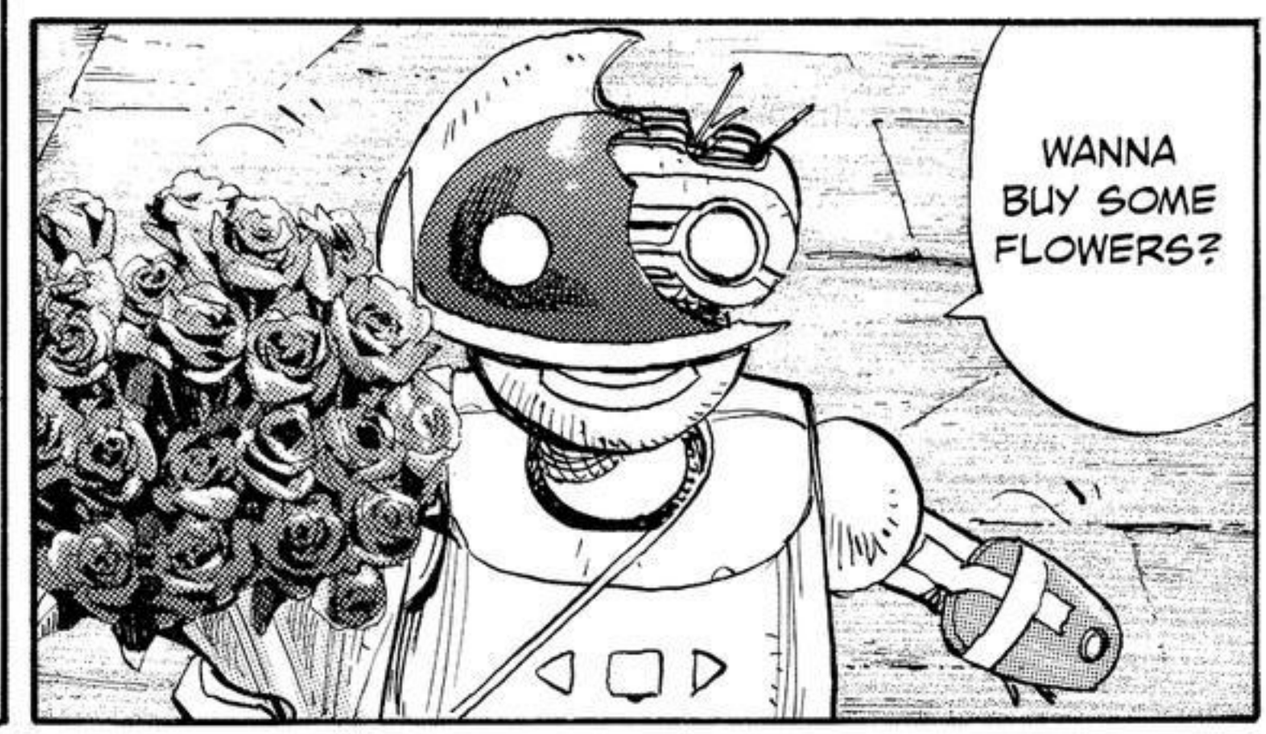

EVER SINCE I GOT HIT IN THE WAR, MY BALANCE HASN'T BEEN SO GOOD...


THANK YOU, MISTER.
YOU'RE WELCOME ...

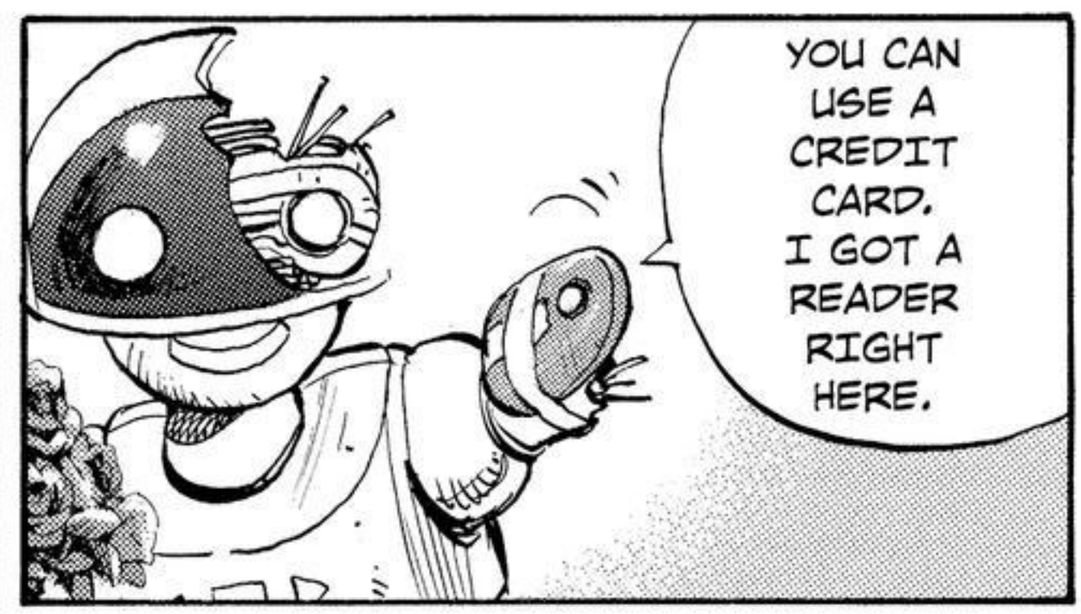
WELL, TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF.
SAY... MISTER...

I SEE...

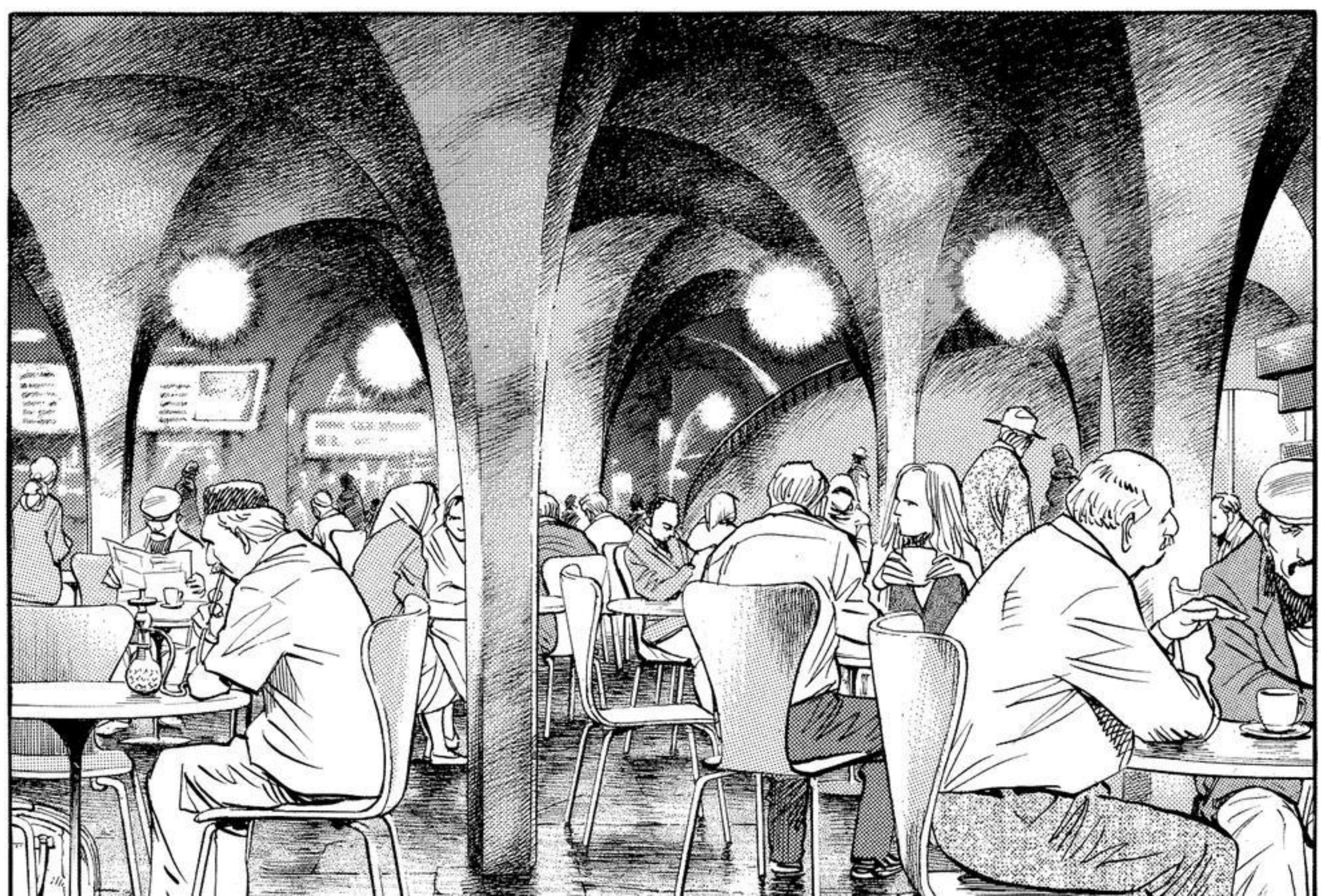
SORRY, I'M IN A HURRY.


WANNA BUY SOME FLOWERS?

SEE YOU LATER.
BUT MISTER...


YOU CAN USE A CREDIT CARD. I GOT A READER RIGHT HERE.

AH, BUT I HAVE NO USE FOR FLOWERS. I'M JUST TRAVELING THROUGH AND HAVE TO LEAVE SOON.



I'M GESICHT OF EUROPOL.
NO, NO... YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

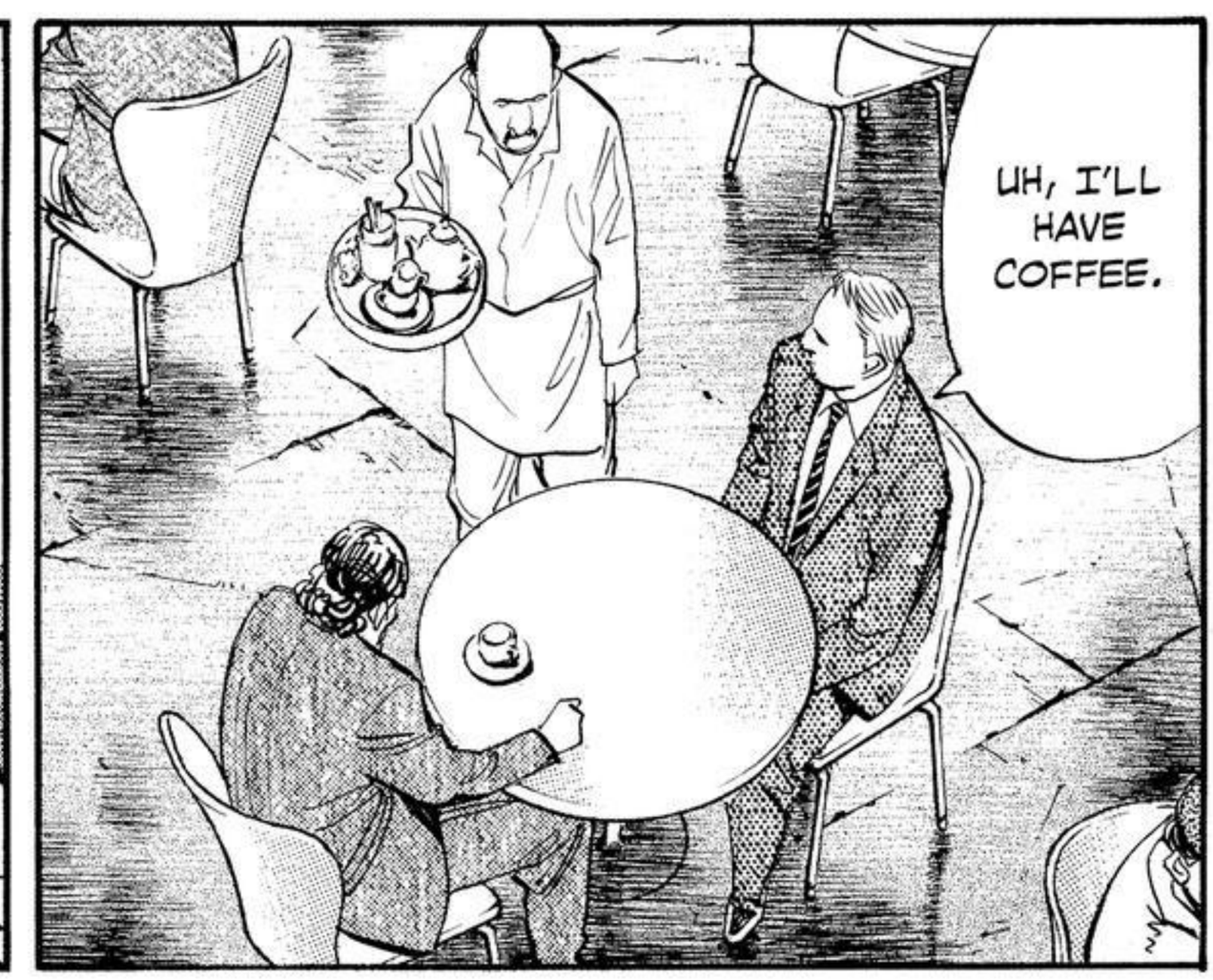
ABULLAH HERE. I'M THE HEAD OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERSIA'S MINISTRY OF SCIENCE.

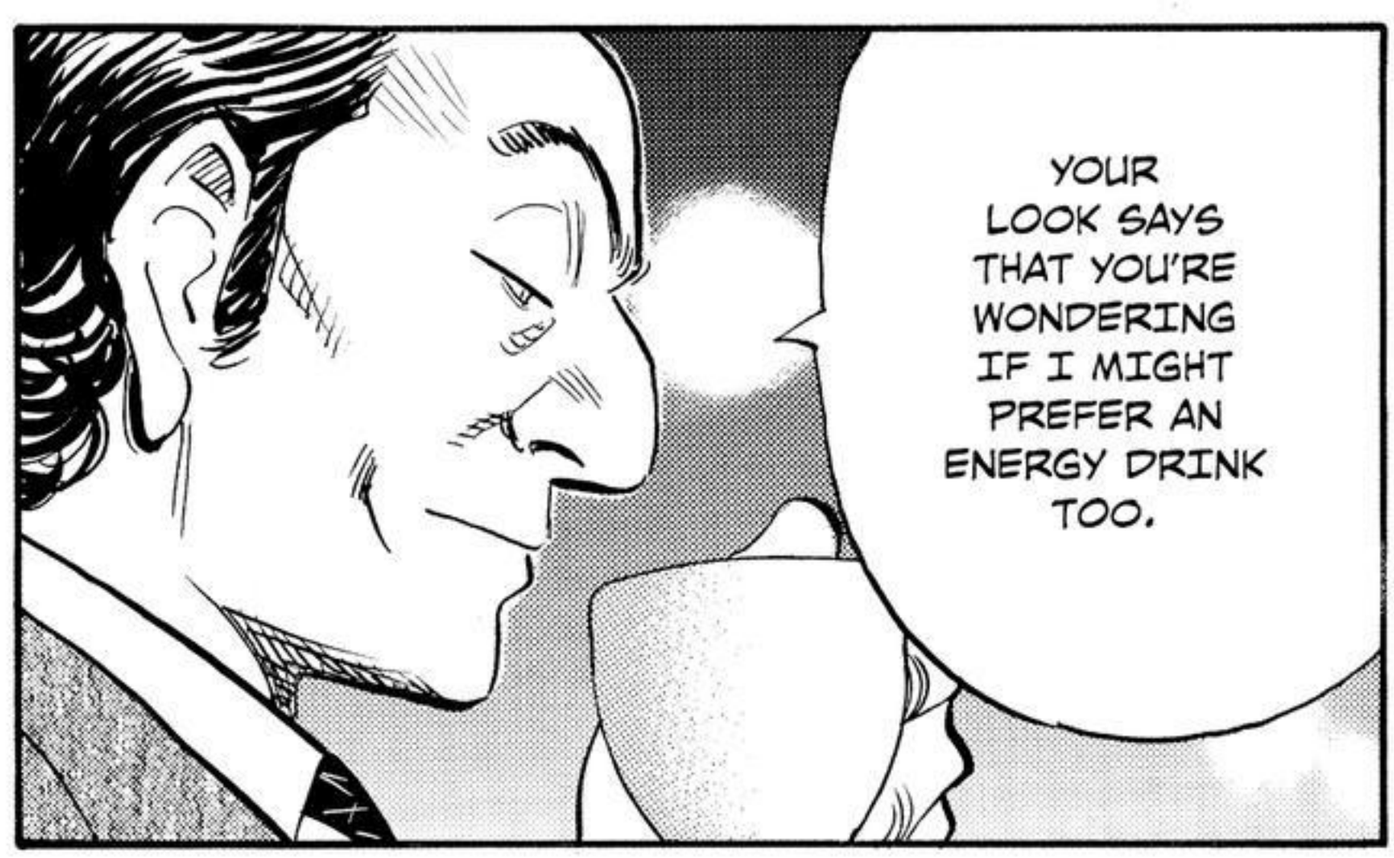
IS SOME-THING WRONG?

...

NO...

I'M A SCIENTIST, GESICHT. YOU CAN BEHAVE NORMALLY WITH ME.
THEY ALSO HAVE ENERGY CATALYST DRINKS HERE.


UH, I'LL HAVE COFFEE.


YOUR LOOK SAYS THAT YOU'RE WONDERING IF I MIGHT PREFER AN ENERGY DRINK TOO.

DON'T WORRY. I'M FINE.

I LOST NEARLY ALL MY HUMAN BODY IN THE LAST WAR...

DON'T WORRY, YOUR RECOGNITION SYSTEM'S WORKING FINE.

...

I JUST WANTED YOU TO SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES...

I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THE WAY HERE.

I... I'M SORRY, I...

NO NEED TO APOL-OGIZE.

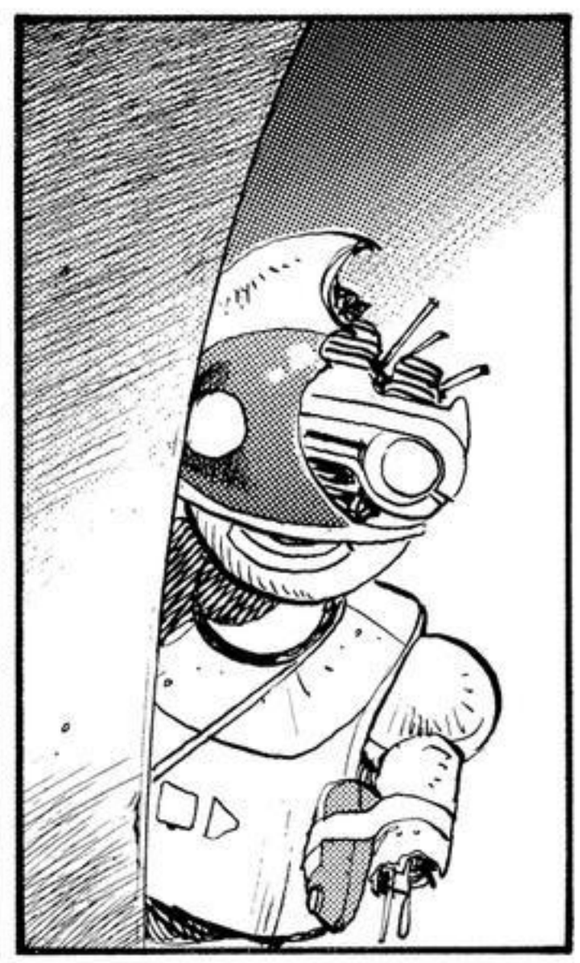
...TO SEE HOW MY COUNTRY IS STARTING TO RECOVER FROM THE WAR AND REBUILD...

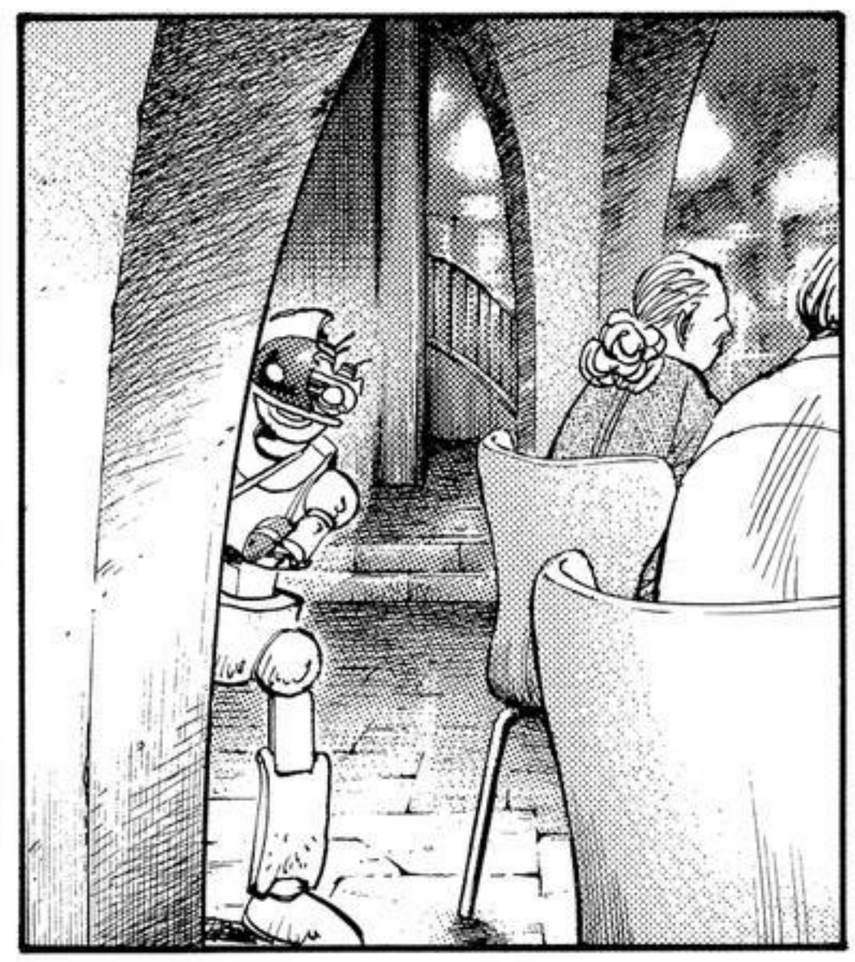
?
THAT A FRIEND OF YOURS?

WE WERE REDUCED TO RUBBLE, BUT THE BAZAARS ARE FINALLY REOPENING.

...

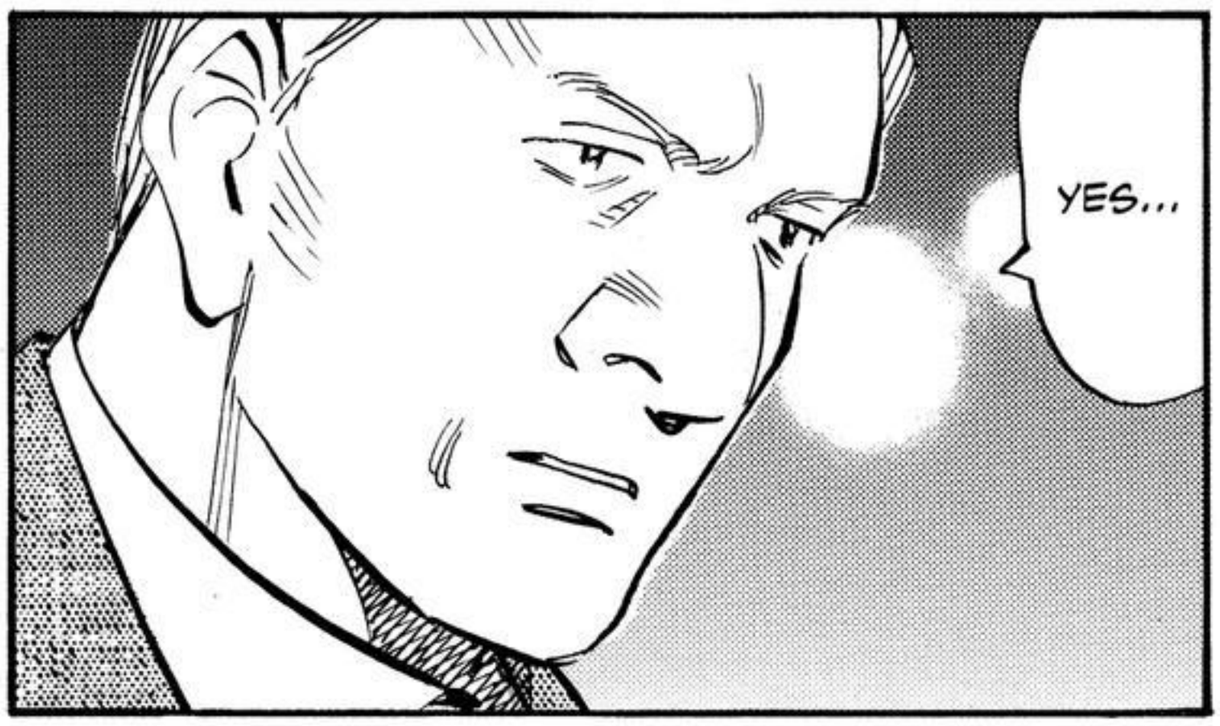
I JUST MET HIM EARLIER...
UH, NO...





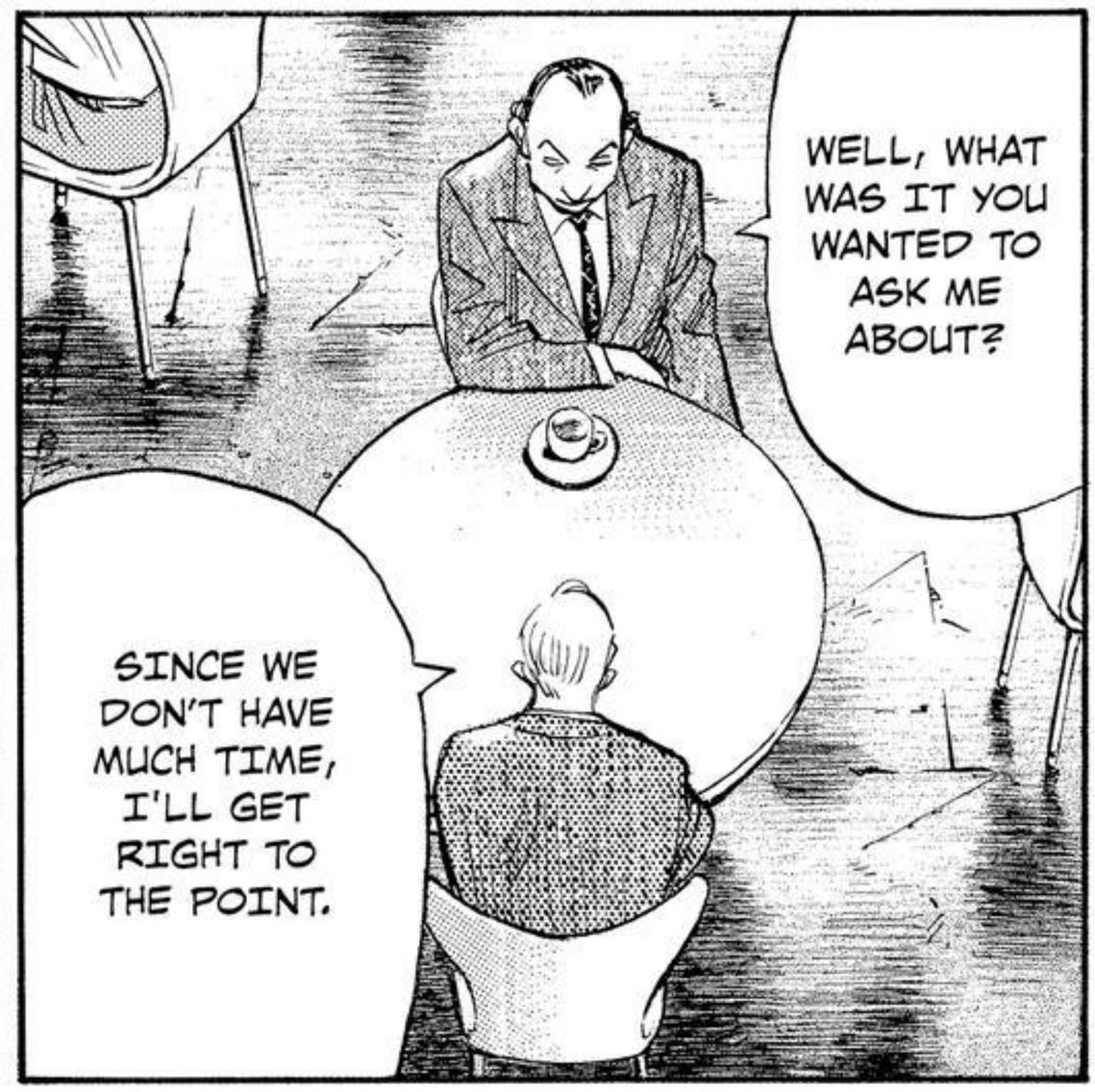
WHAT WE MUST DO NOW IS SOMEHOW PROVIDE THEM WITH A BETTER LIFE...

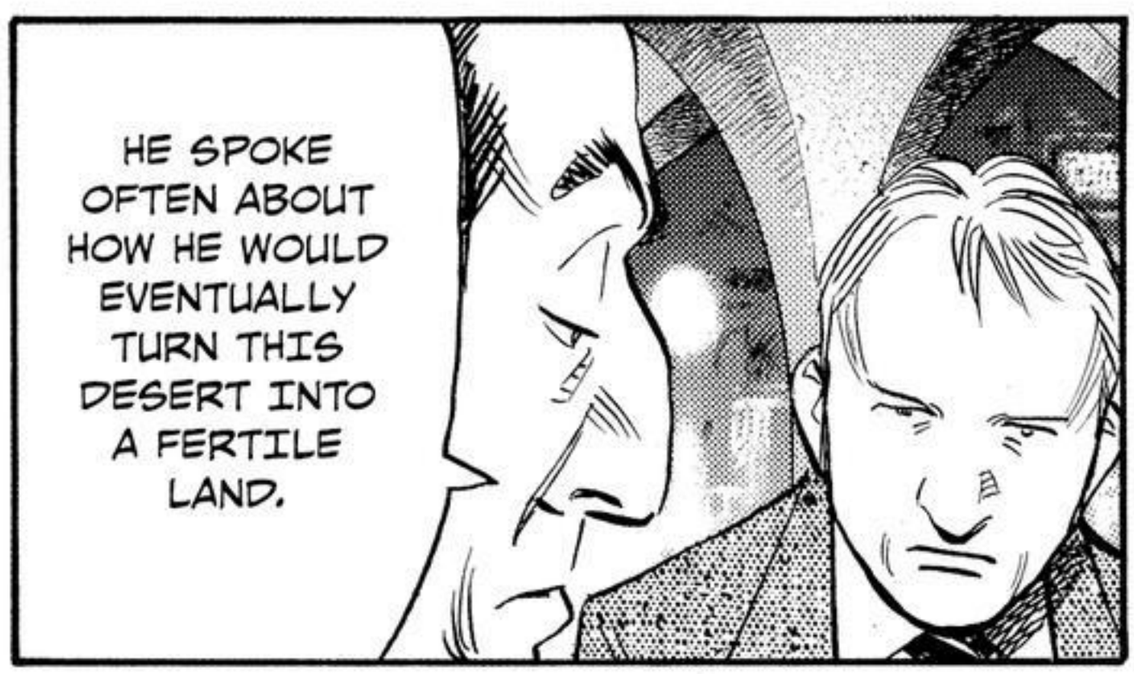
OUR ECONOMY MAY BE GRADUALLY COMING BACK TO LIFE, BUT THOSE KIDS ON THE FRINGE STILL HAVEN'T RECOVERED...
IT'S CHILDREN LIKE THAT I FEEL SO SORRY FOR.


YES...

I'M SURE SOMEONE LIKE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND?

WHAT WAS YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH DARIUS XIV?


WELL, WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO ASK ME ABOUT?
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, I'LL GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.


HE SPOKE OFTEN ABOUT HOW HE WOULD EVENTUALLY TURN THIS DESERT INTO A FERTILE LAND.

...A "FIELD OF *FLOWERS*" ?
YOU MEAN...

AS A MAN, DARIUS WAS ALWAYS VERY KIND TO HIS LOYAL SUBJECTS.
WE WERE ON GOOD TERMS.

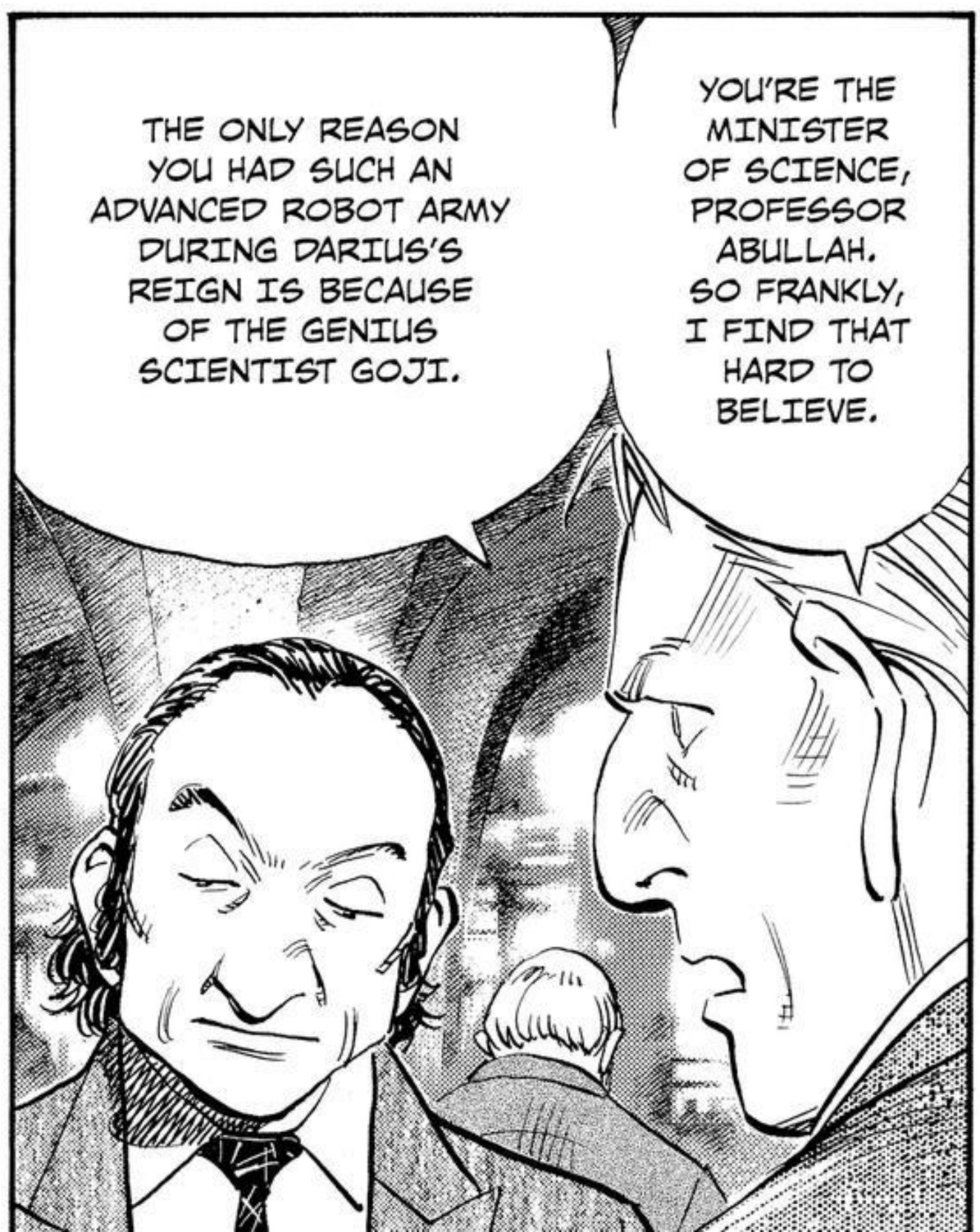
YES.

DO YOU KNOW A MAN NAMED *GOJI*?

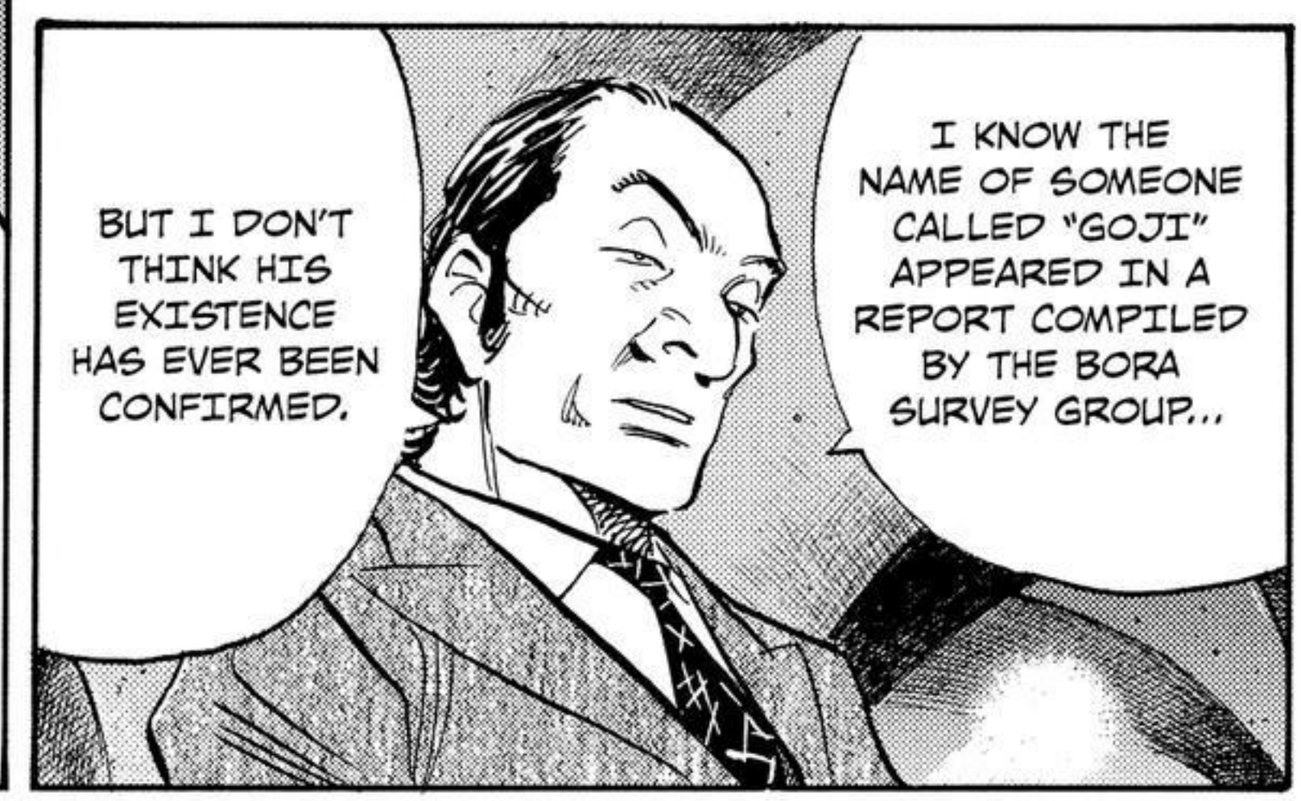
...

NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

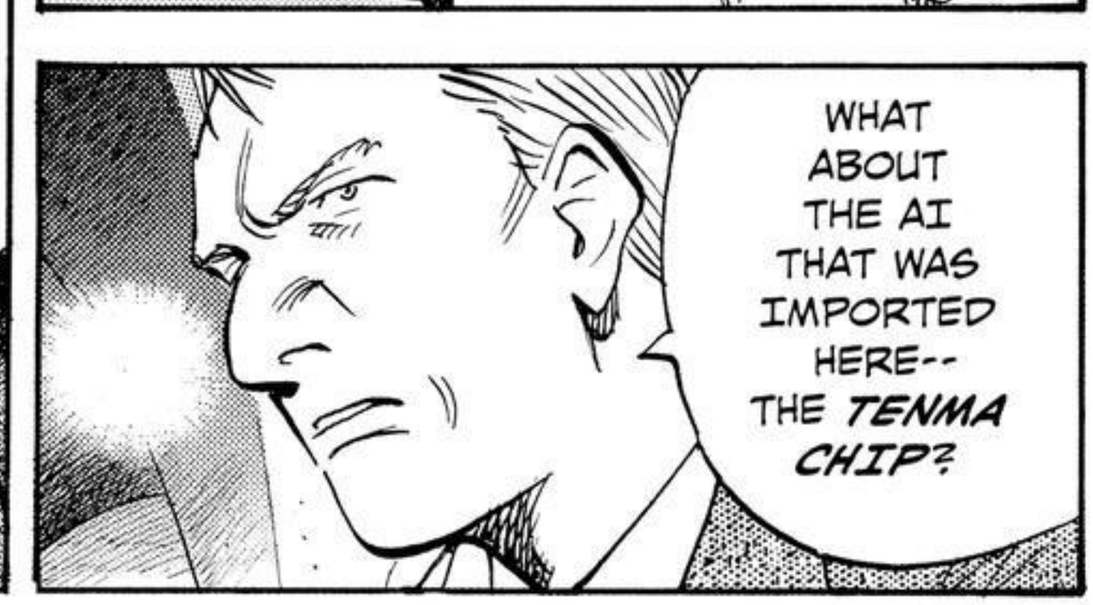
JUST *RUMORS*, RIGHT?


THE ONLY REASON YOU HAD SUCH AN ADVANCED ROBOT ARMY DURING DARIUS'S REIGN IS BECAUSE OF THE GENIUS SCIENTIST GOJI.
YOU'RE THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE, PROFESSOR ABULLAH. SO FRANKLY, I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.

BESIDES, EVEN I KNOW NOTHING OF HIM...

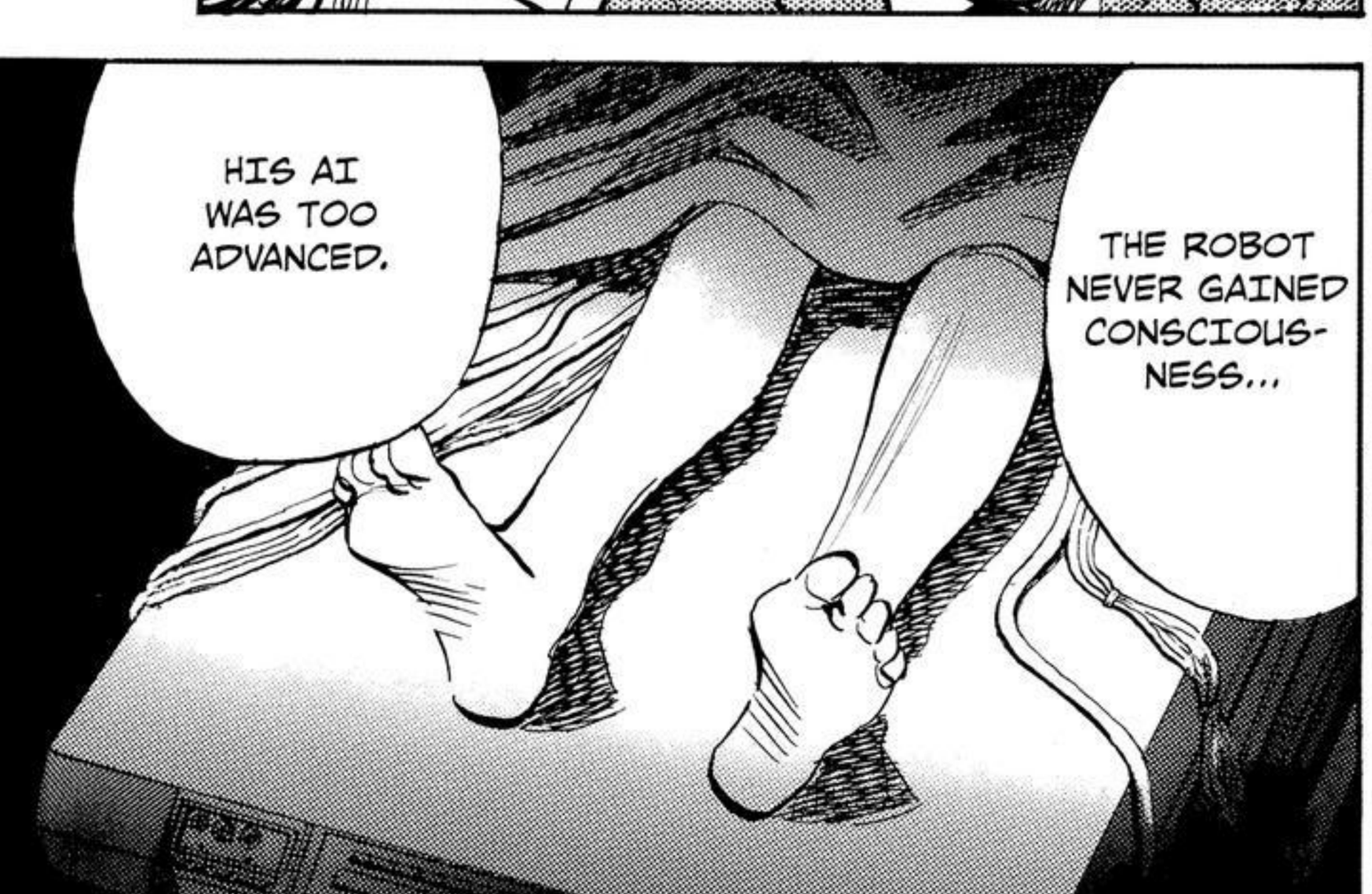

BUT I DON'T THINK HIS EXISTENCE HAS EVER BEEN CONFIRMED.
I KNOW THE NAME OF SOMEONE CALLED "GOJI" APPEARED IN A REPORT COMPILED BY THE BORA SURVEY GROUP...

SINCE WE'RE DEALING IN RUMORS, INSPECTOR GESICHT, ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING I HAVE HEARD...


WHAT ABOUT THE AI THAT WAS IMPORTED HERE-- THE TENMA CHIP?

YES, HOWEVER...
THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED AI?

I'VE HEARD THAT PROFESSOR TENMA AND THIS GENIUS SCIENTIST CREATED A ROBOT WITH THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED AI.


HIS AI WAS TOO ADVANCED.
THE ROBOT NEVER GAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS...

THEY SAY THE ROBOT'S STILL SLEEPING, DEEP UNDER DARIUS'S FORMER PALACE.

WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M OUT OF TIME. I'VE GOT TO GET GOING...

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, PROFESSOR ...

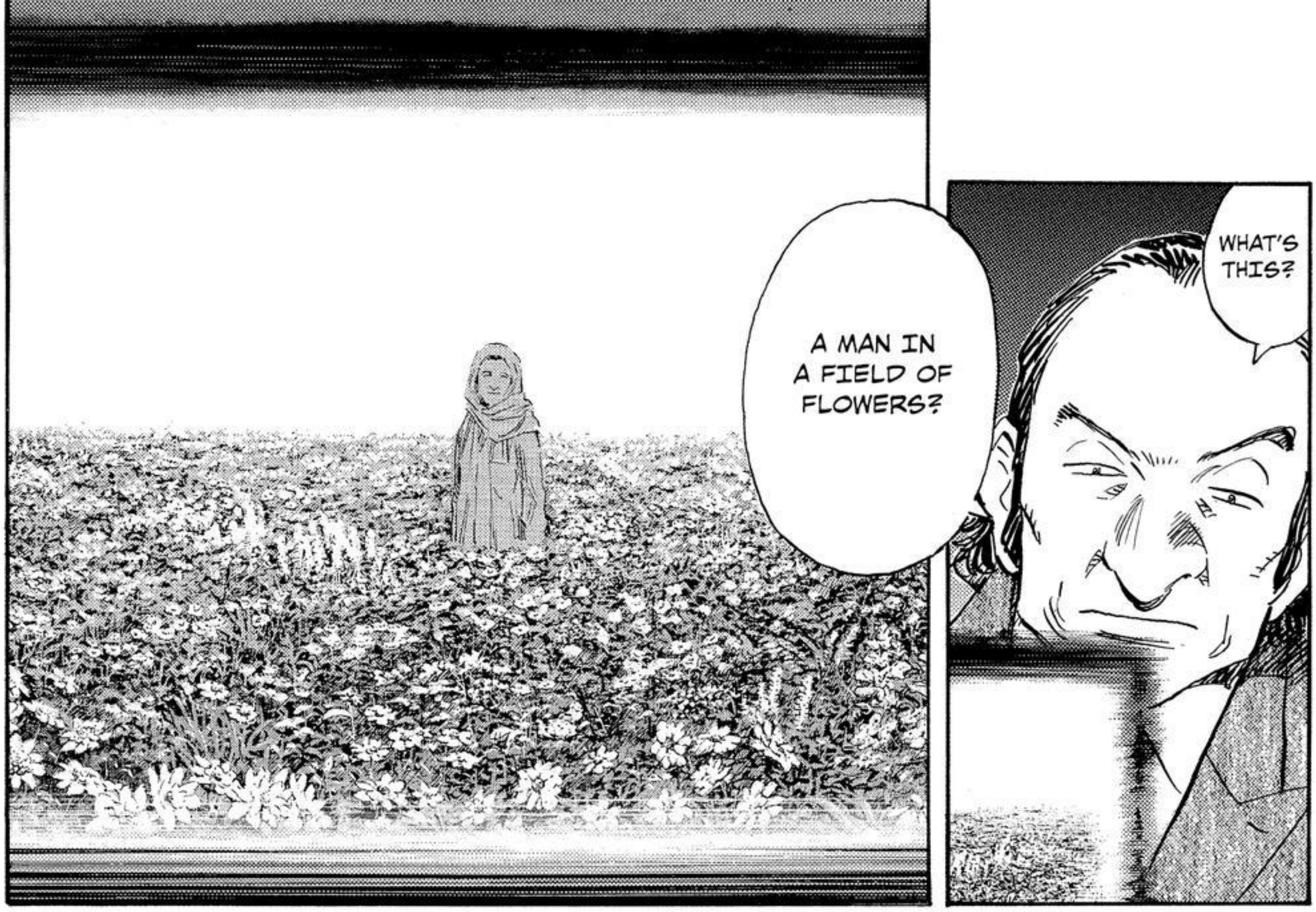
SO WHY DON'T YOU GO SEARCH FOR THE ROBOT YOURSELF, INSPECTOR?

...

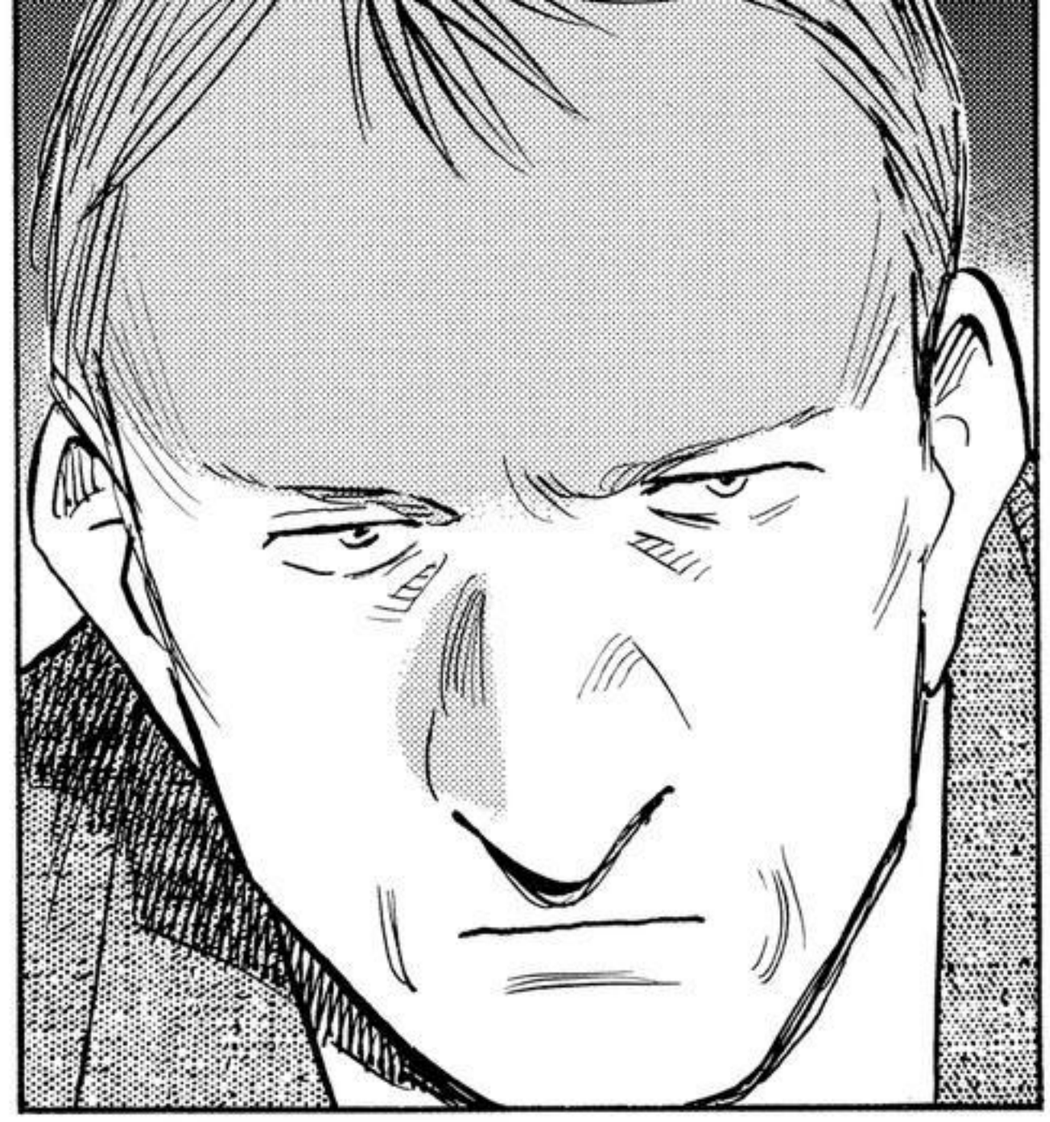
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS IMAGE.

BZZZT

BUT I'VE GOT ONE MORE QUESTION...


A MAN IN A FIELD OF FLOWERS?
WHAT'S THIS?

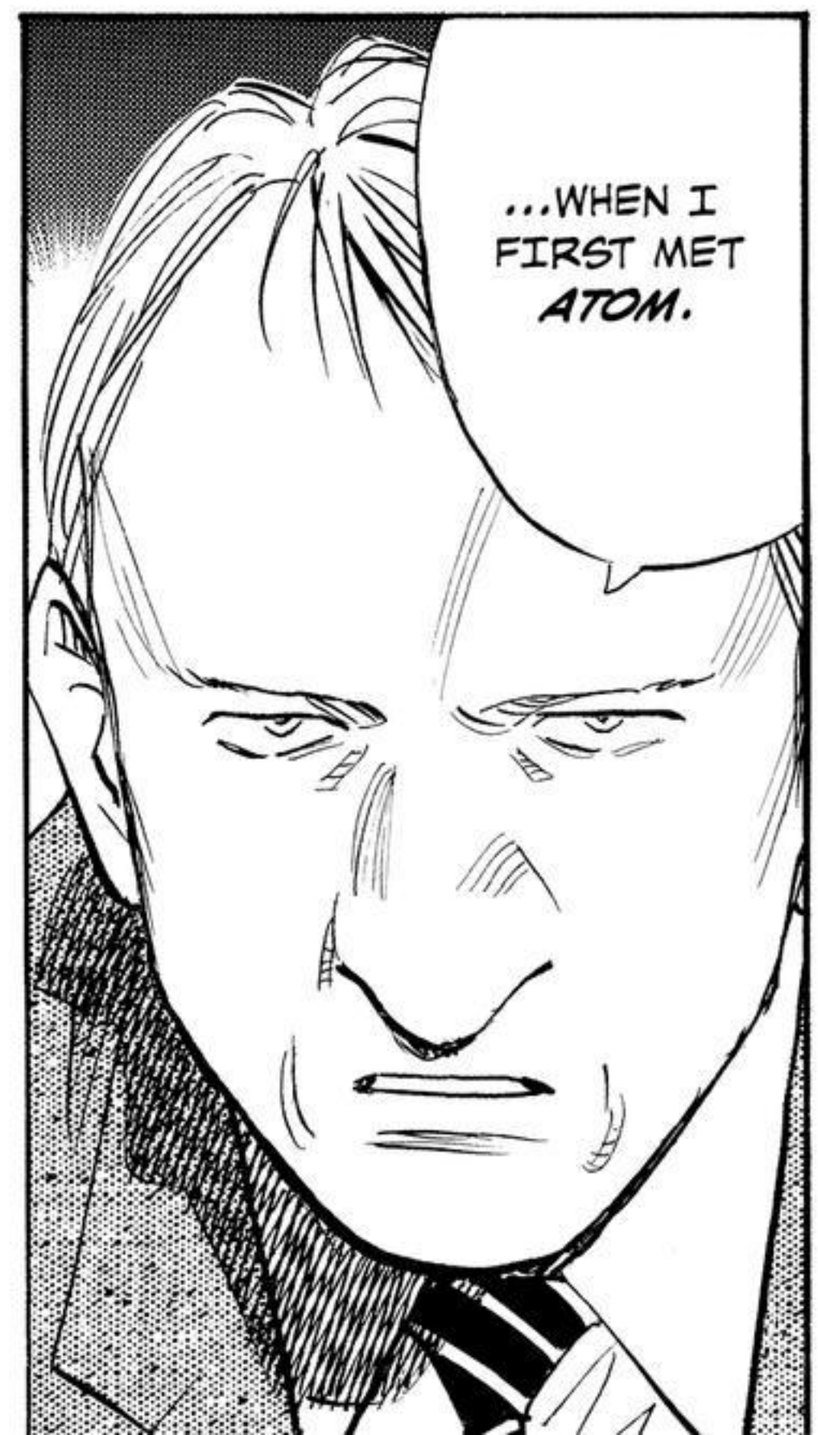
EVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE?



CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING BEEN CONFUSED ABOUT YOU BEING MAN OR ROBOT.

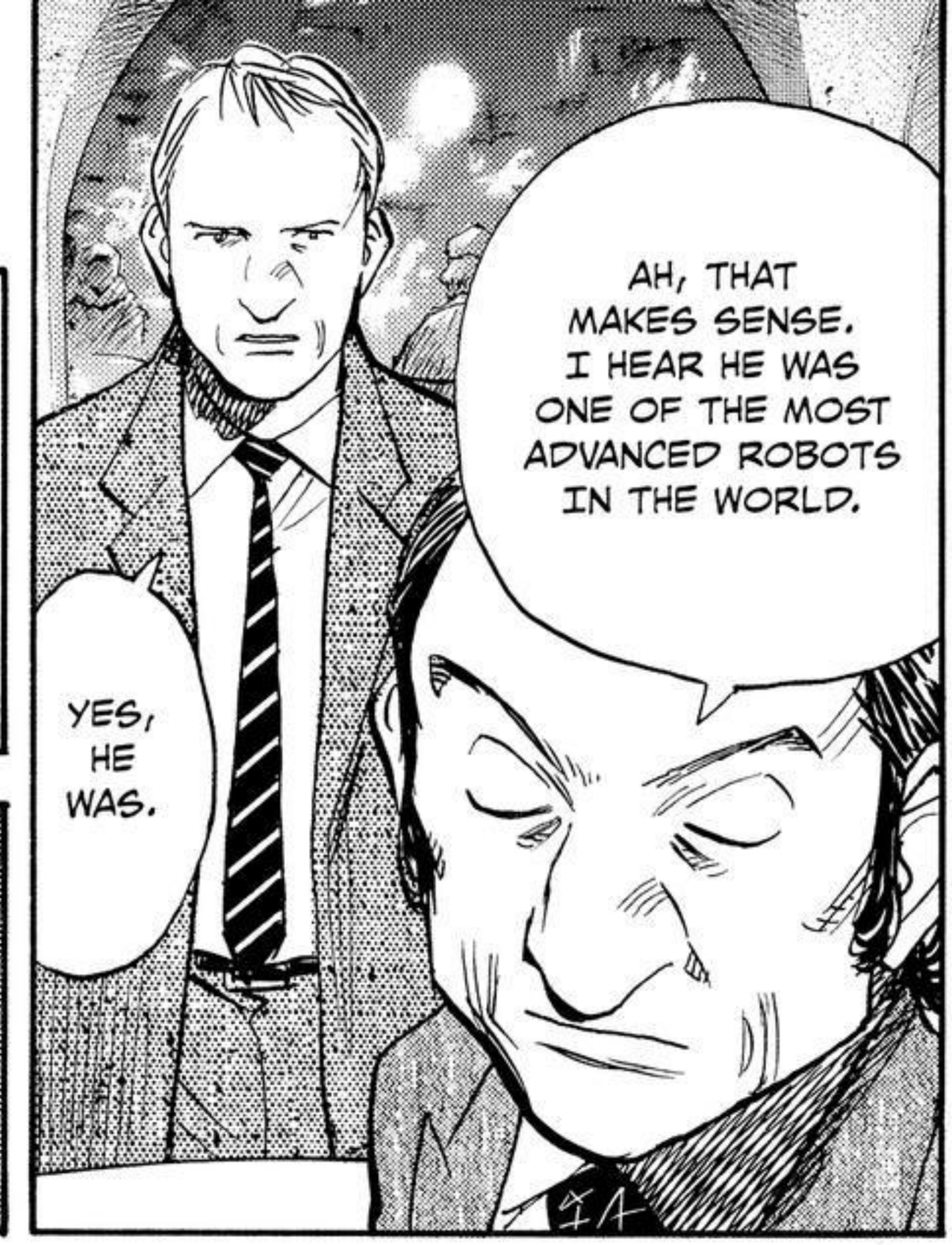
THAT'LL DO, THEN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, PROFESSOR.
NO PROBLEM, INSPECTOR. I HOPE YOU SOLVE THE CASE SOON.


...WHEN I FIRST MET *ATOM*.

DON'T WORRY.

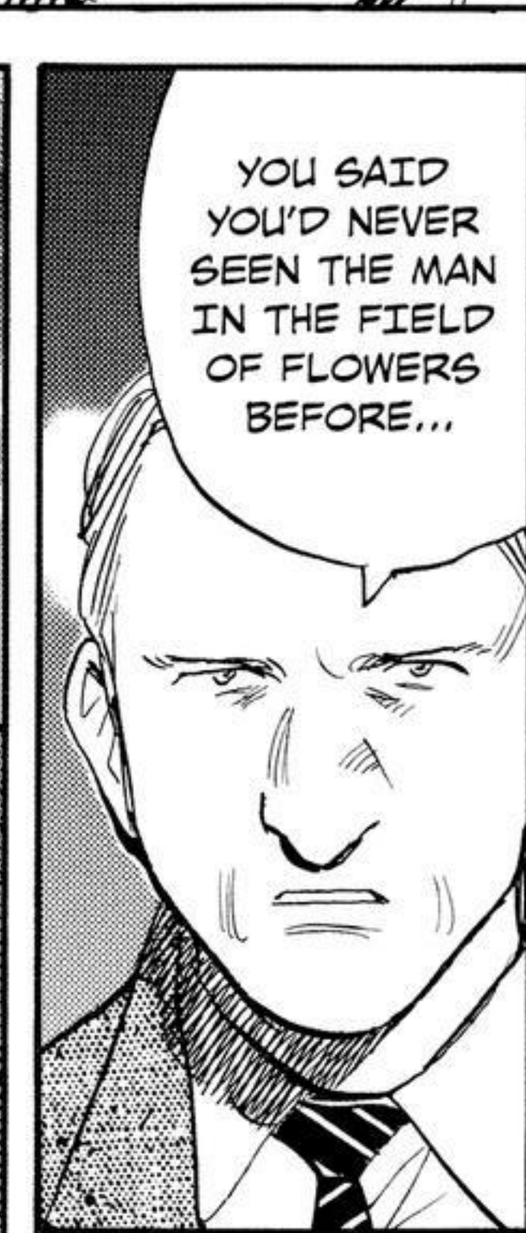
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'VE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCE ONCE BEFORE...

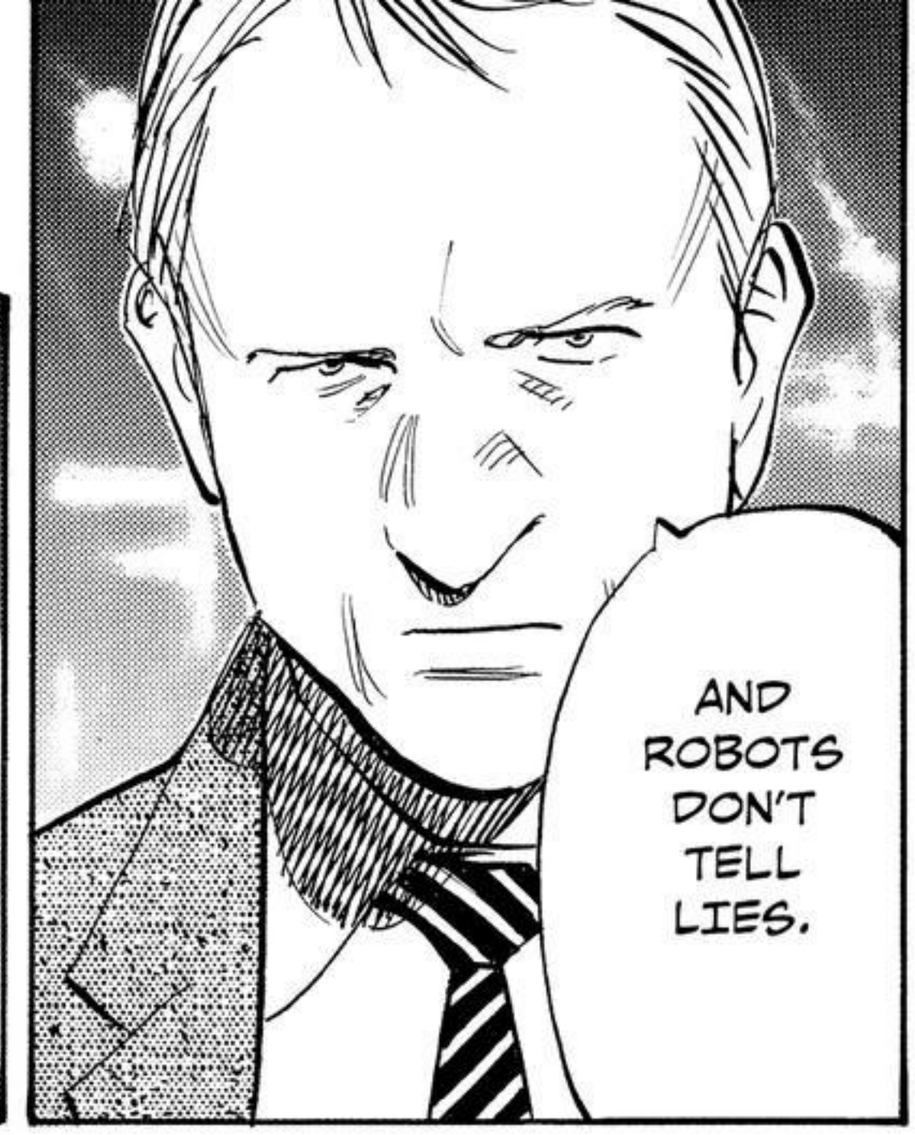
AND ACTUALLY, MY SYSTEM POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED YOU AS A HUMAN JUST A SECOND AGO...

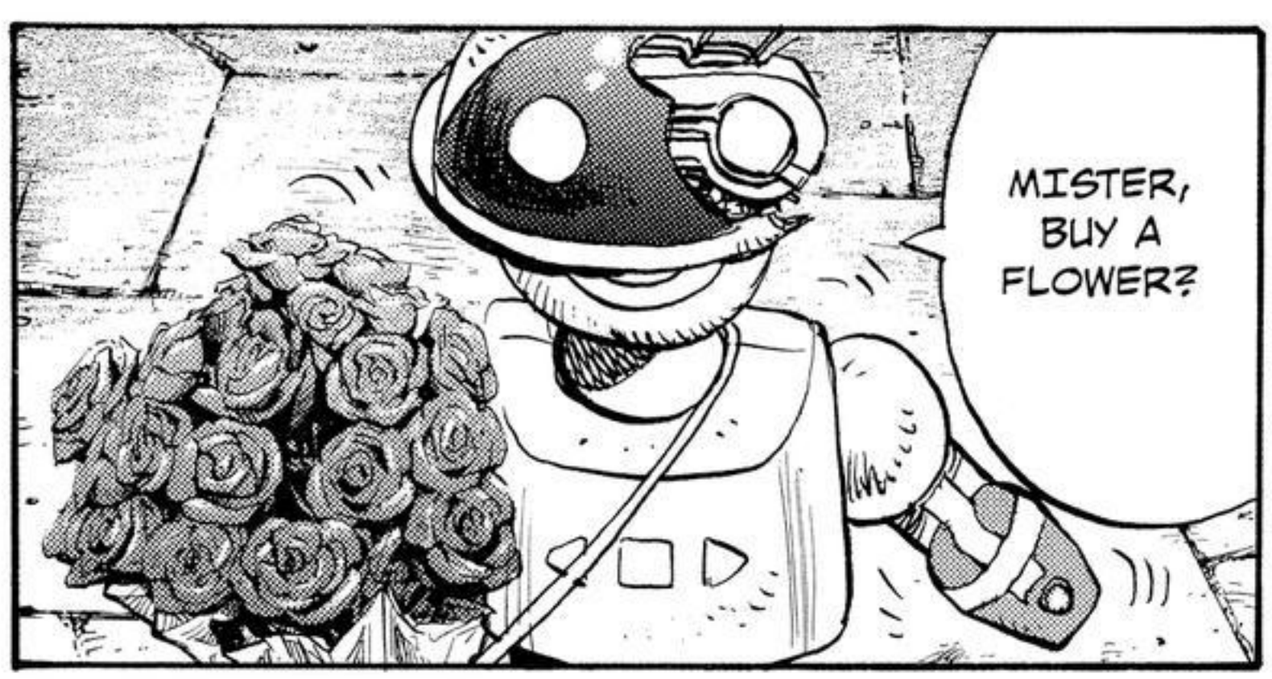

AH, THAT MAKES SENSE. I HEAR HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOTS IN THE WORLD.
YES, HE WAS.

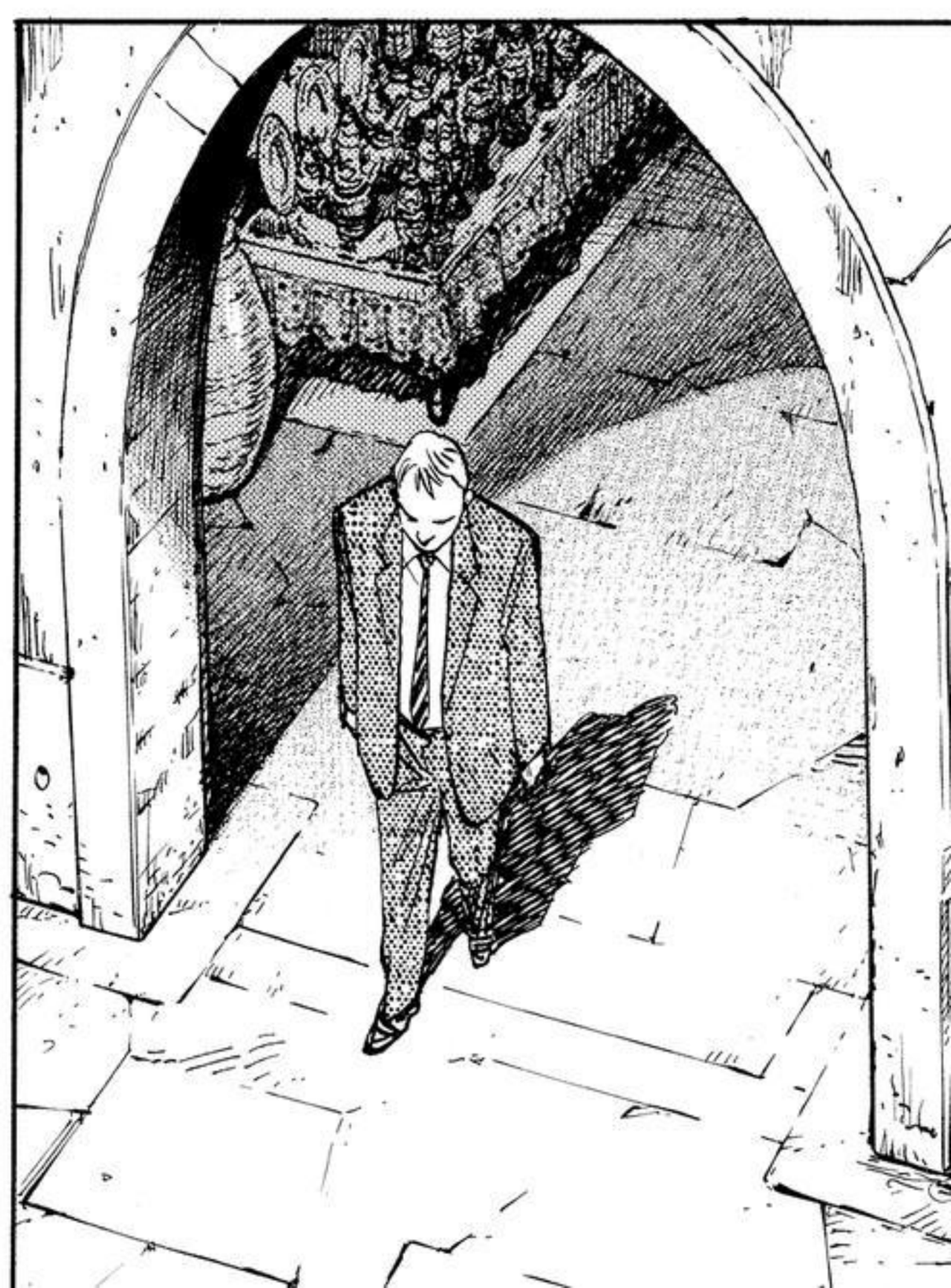
...BECAUSE YOU *LIED*, PROFESSOR.

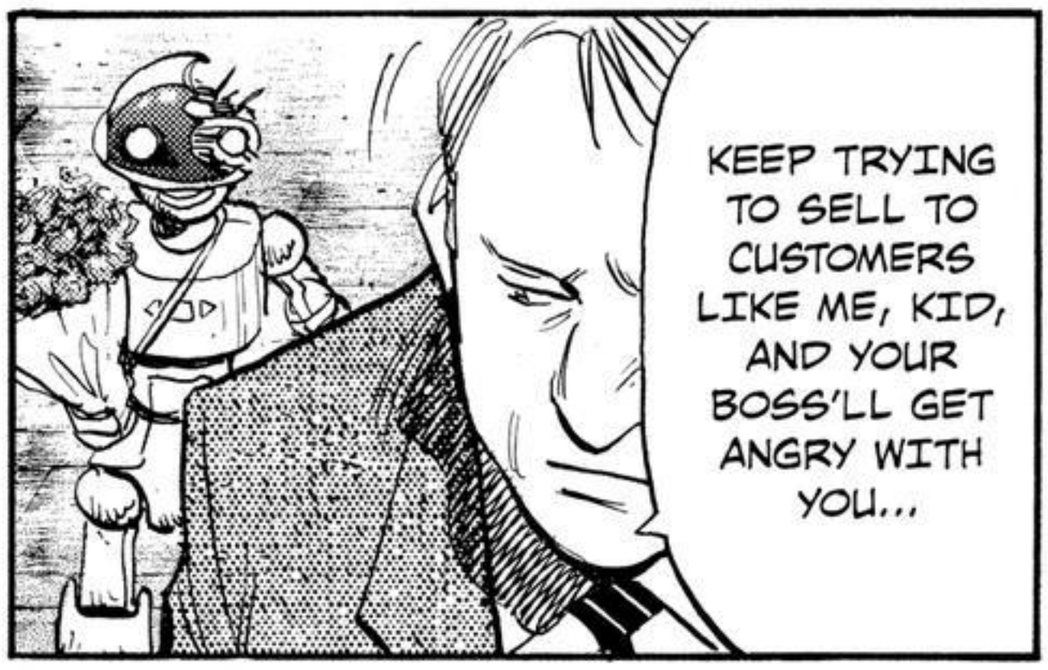
MY SYSTEM REGISTERED THAT AS A LIE.

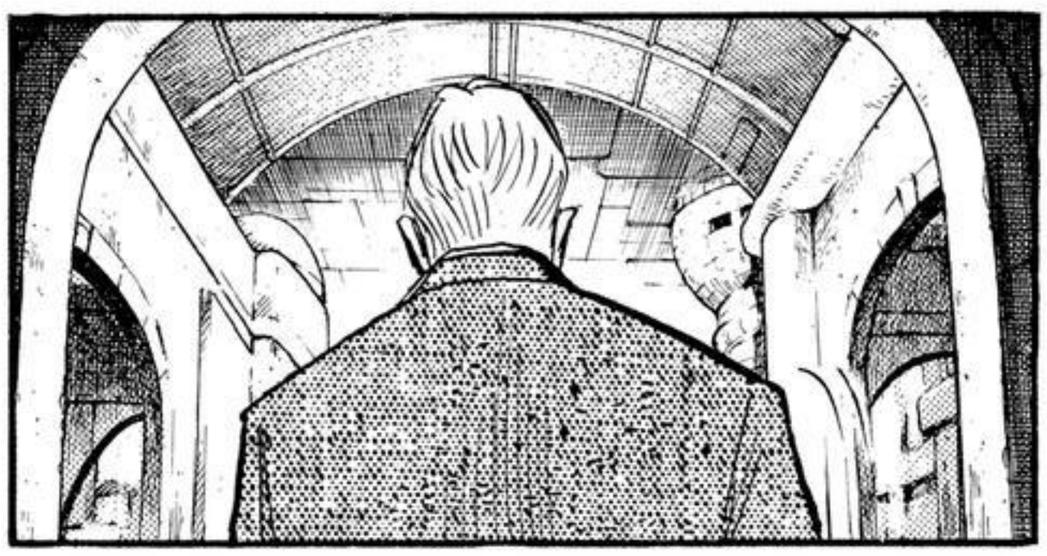

YOU SAID YOU'D NEVER SEEN THE MAN IN THE FIELD OF FLOWERS BEFORE...

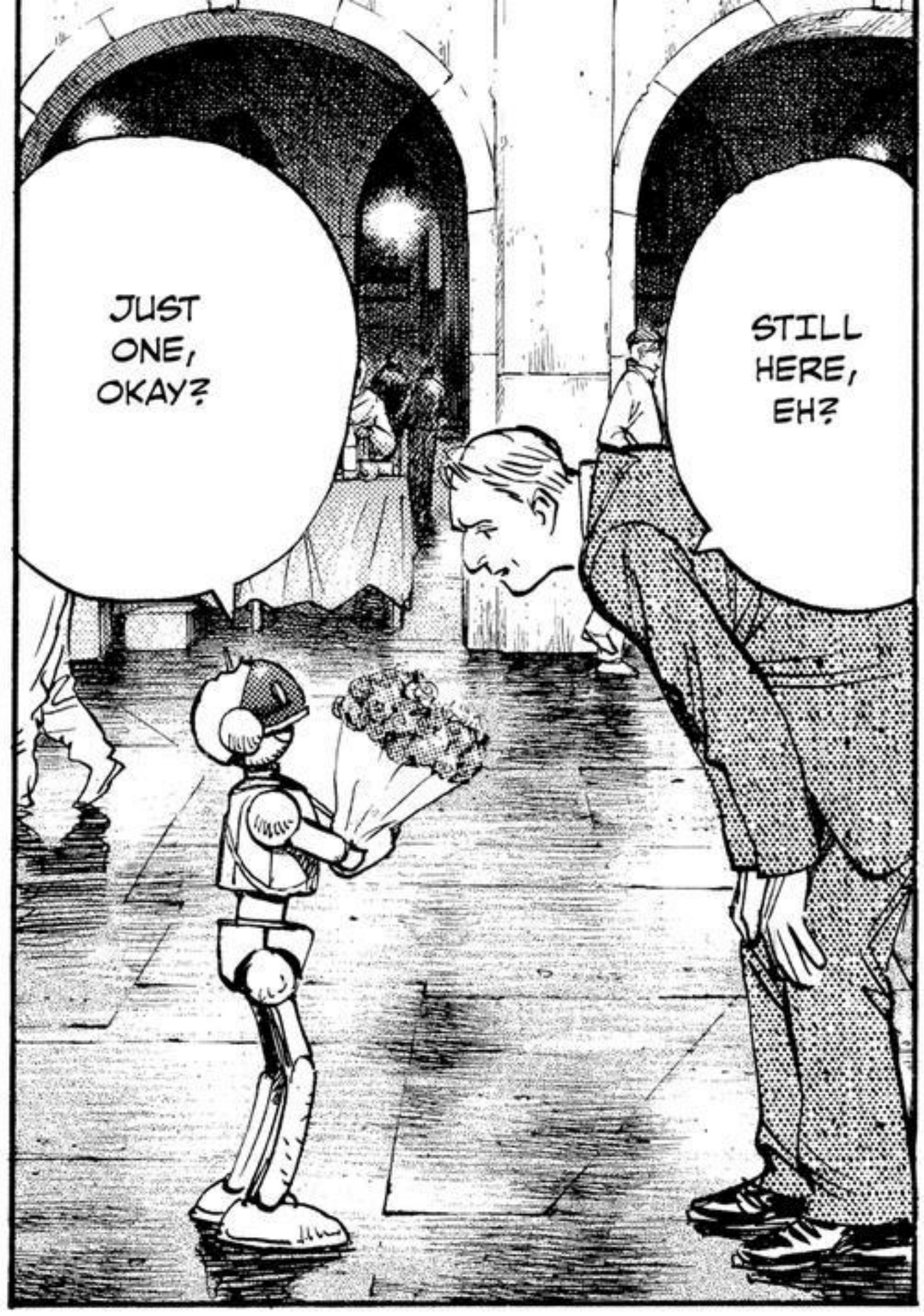

AND ROBOTS DON'T TELL LIES.


MISTER, BUY A FLOWER?

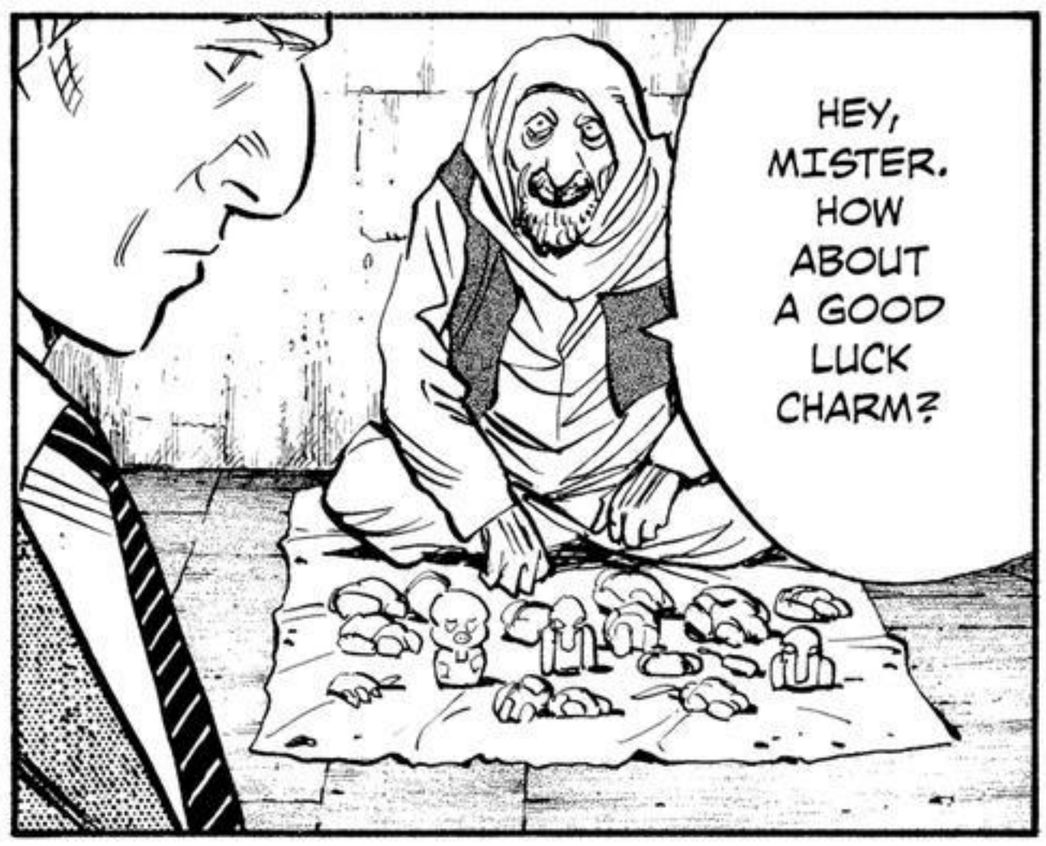



KEEP TRYING TO SELL TO CUSTOMERS LIKE ME, KID, AND YOUR BOSS'LL GET ANGRY WITH YOU...

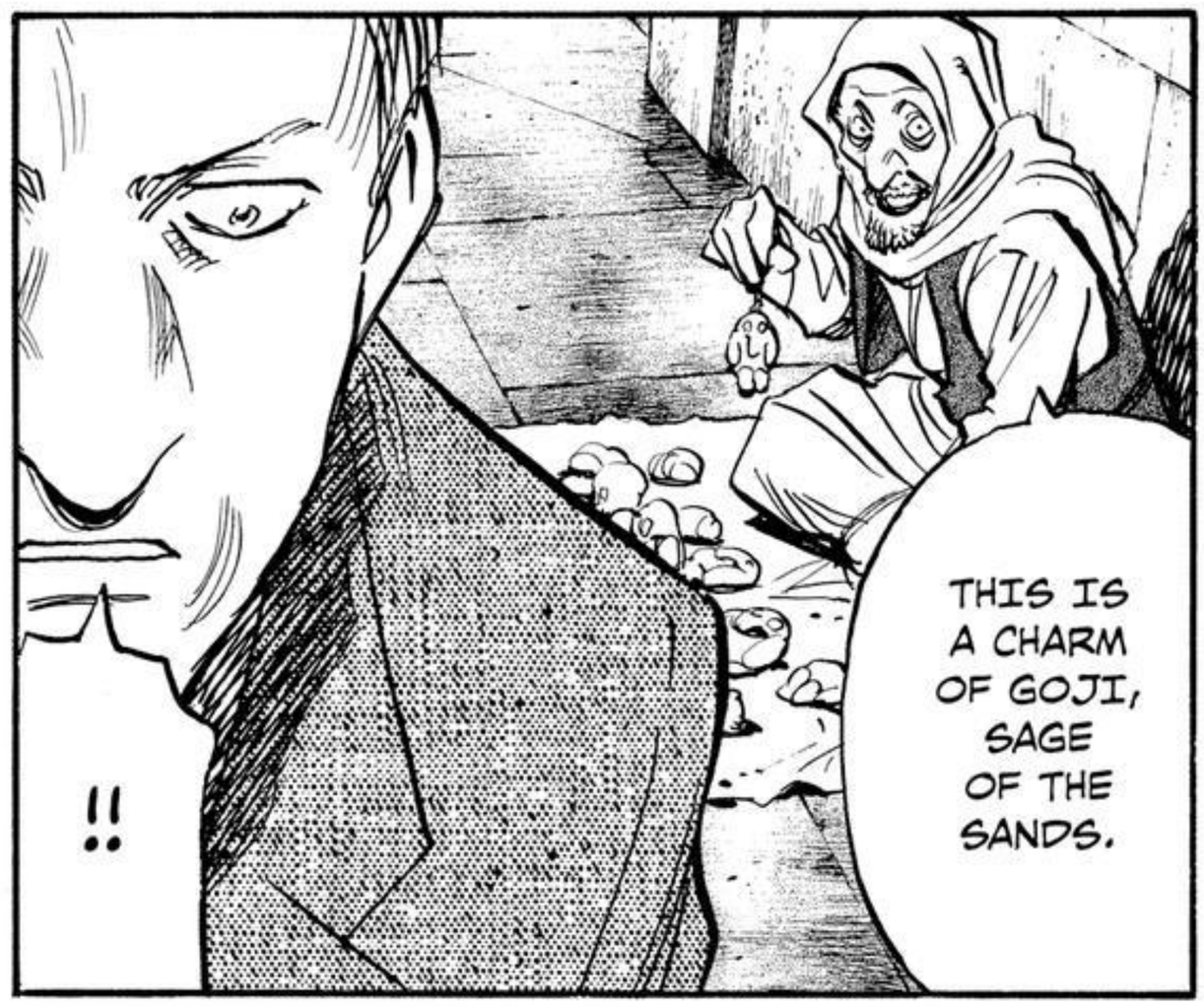



JUST ONE, OKAY?
STILL HERE, EH?

BUY ONE OF THESE AND YOU'LL HAVE THE ANSWER TO ANYTHING THAT TROUBLES YOU.


HEY, MISTER. HOW ABOUT A GOOD LUCK CHARM?

DID YOU SAY *GOJI*?


!!
THIS IS A CHARM OF GOJI, SAGE OF THE SANDS.

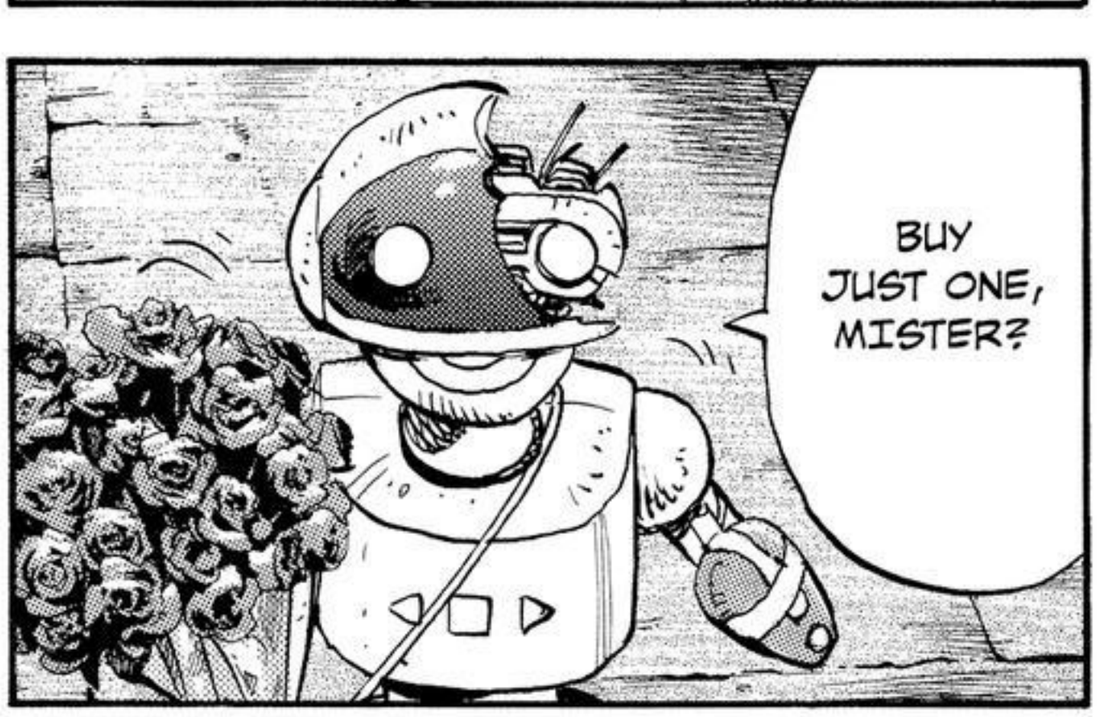
HE'S THE SAGE WHO, AFTER REVEALING THE TRUE PATH TO THE ANCIENT KING OF UZBEK, TURNED ONCE AGAIN TO SAND.

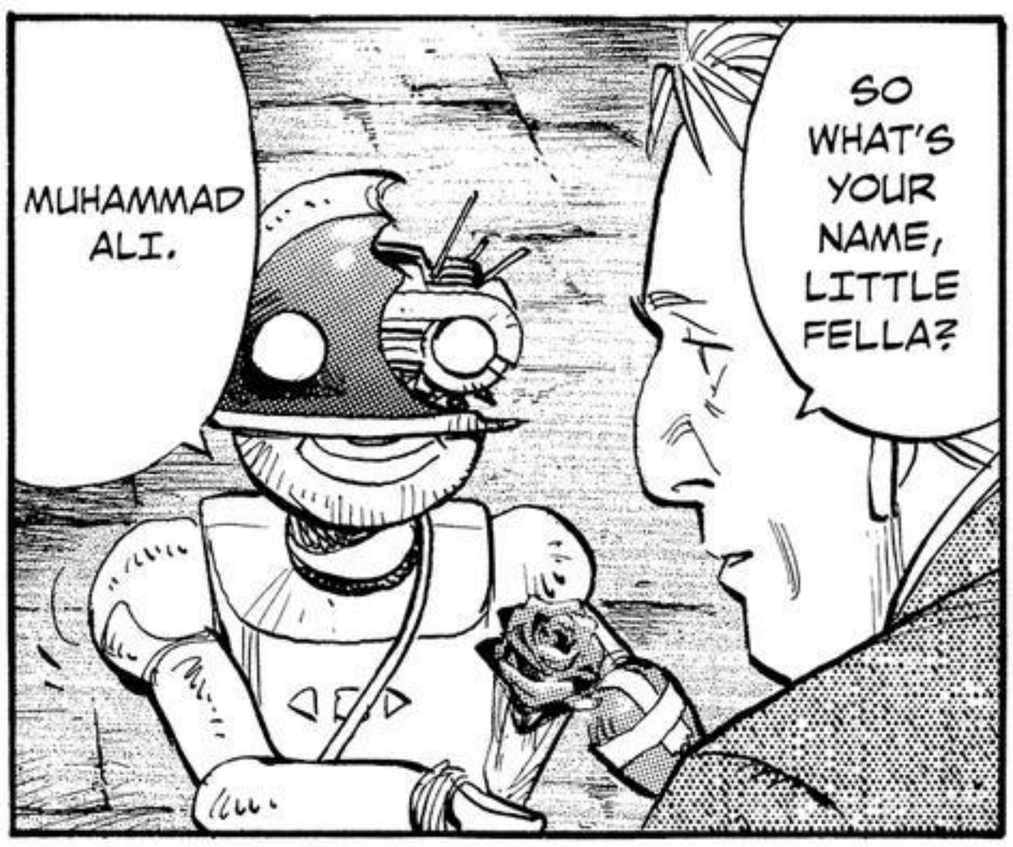
THAT'S RIGHT! GOD BROUGHT HIM TO LIFE FROM THE DESERT SANDS.

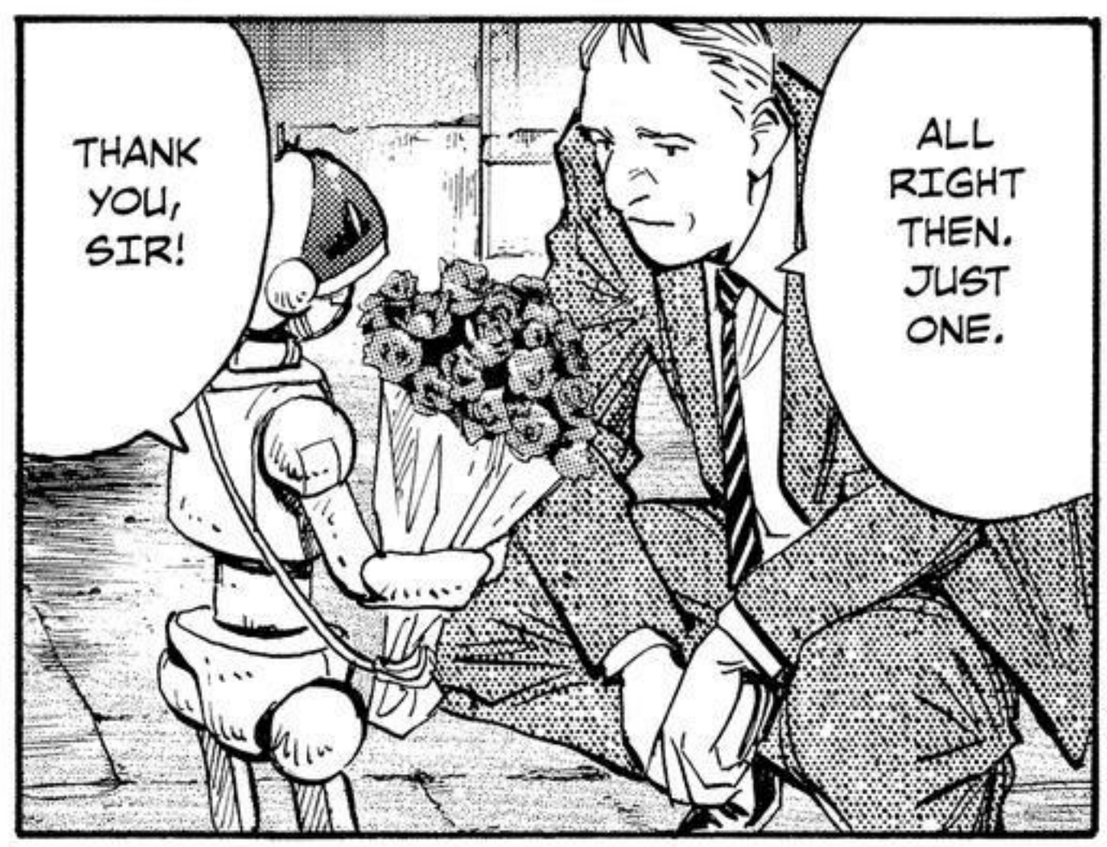
SAGE OF THE SANDS? GOJI?

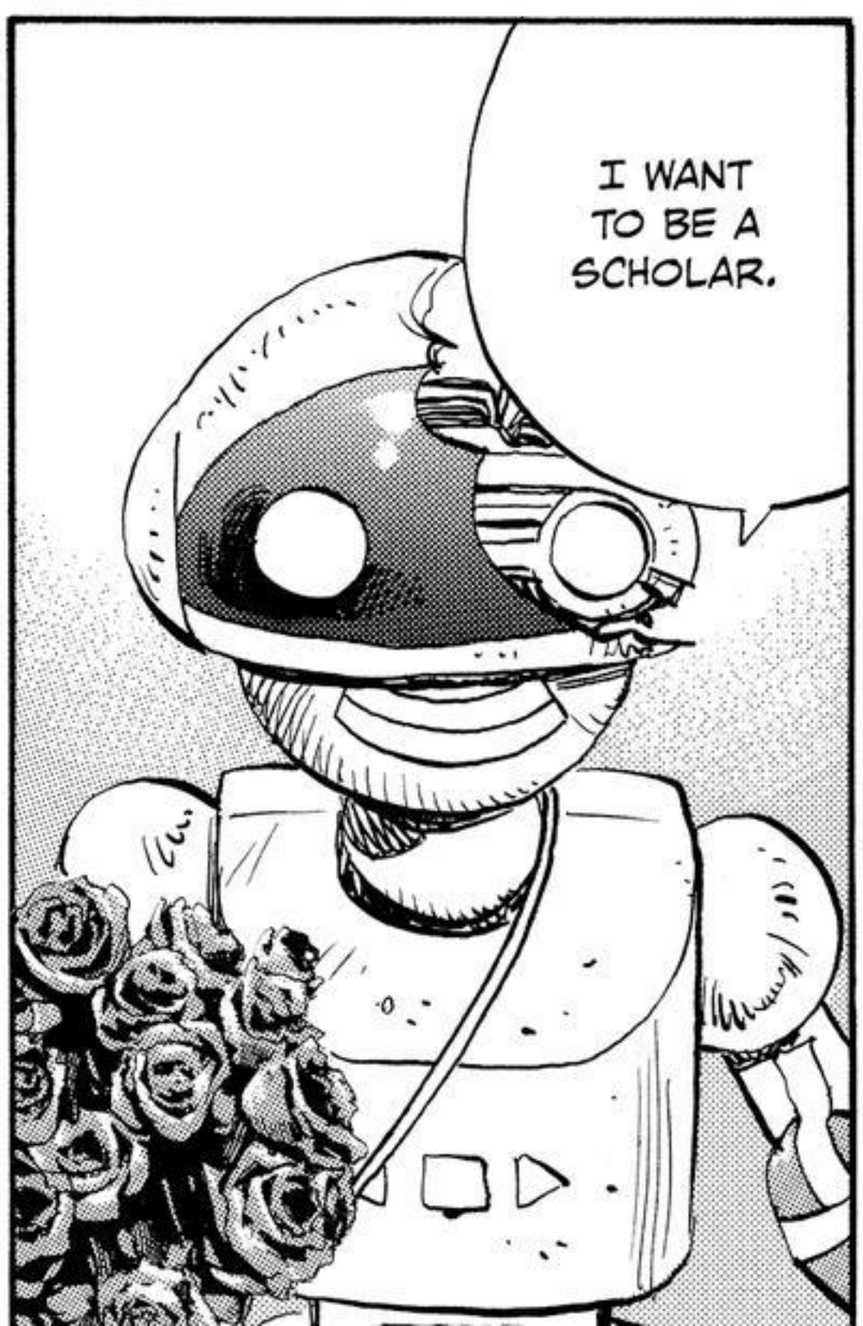
HIS AI WAS TOO ADVANCED.

HOWEVER, THE ROBOT NEVER GAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS...


BUY JUST ONE, MISTER?


MUHAMMAD ALI.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME, LITTLE FELLA?

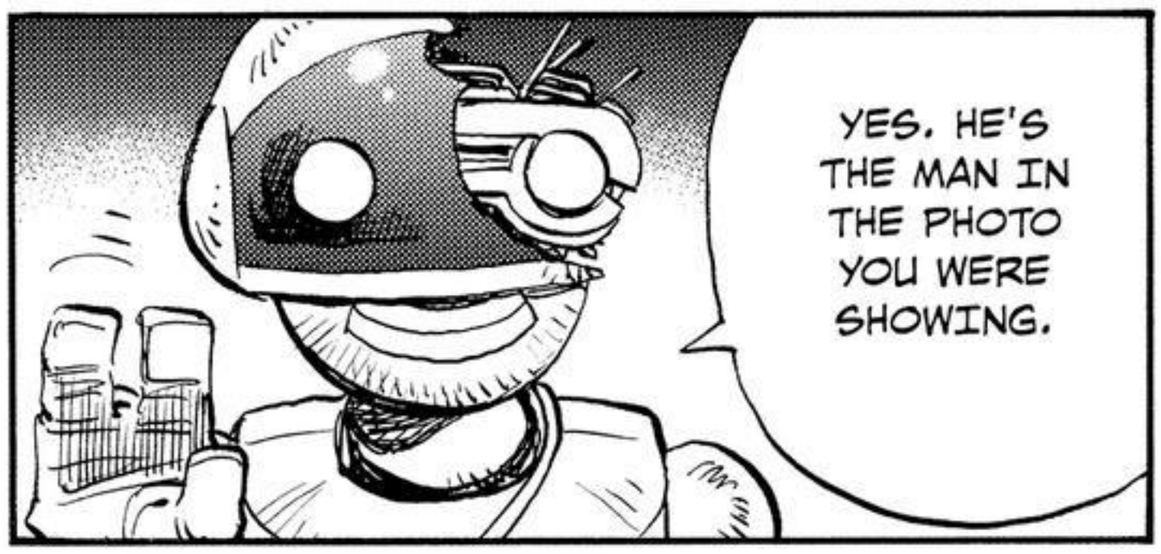

THANK YOU, SIR!
ALL RIGHT THEN. JUST ONE.

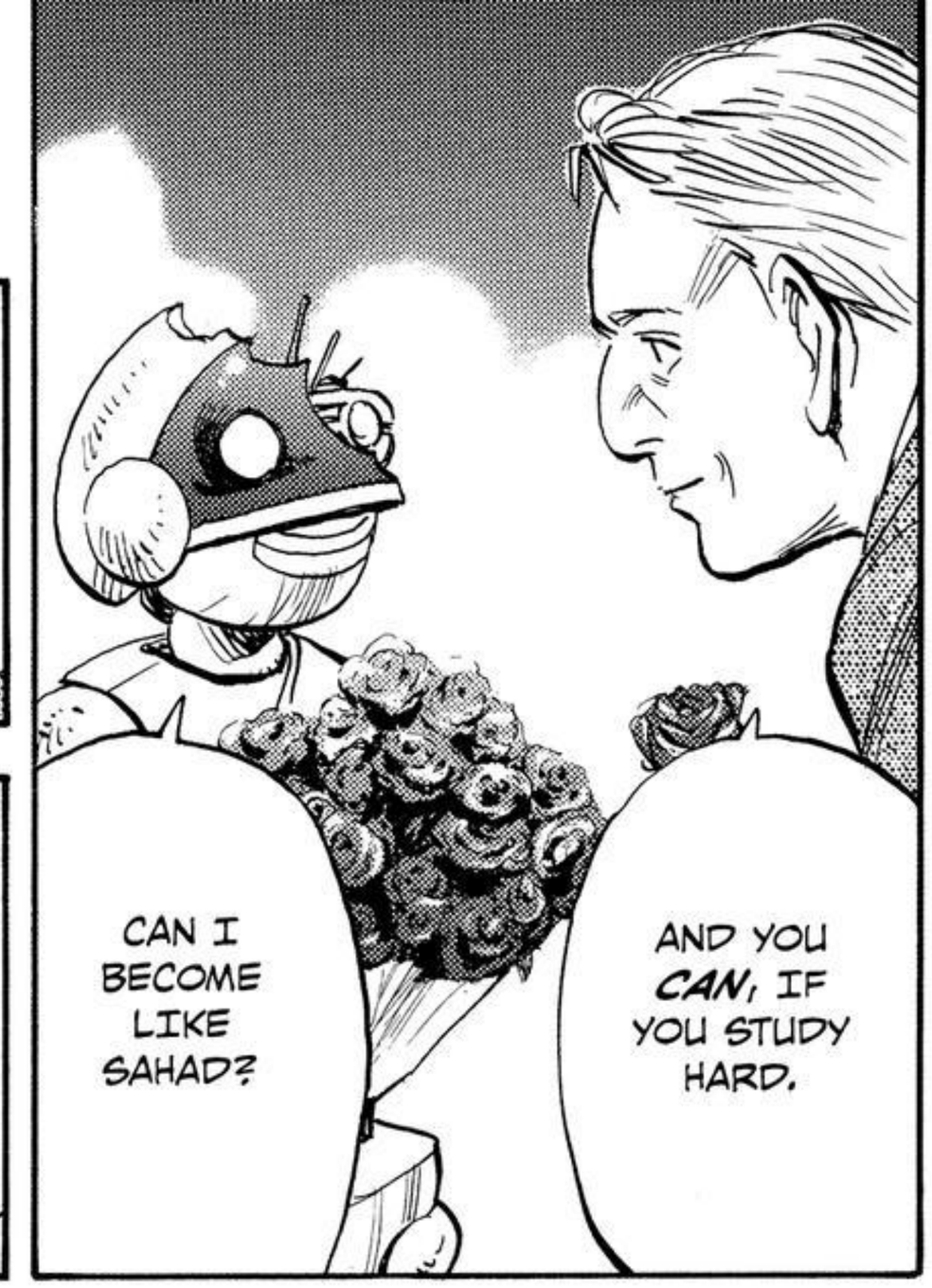

I WANT TO BE A SCHOLAR.

YOU THINK I'LL EVER BECOME AS GREAT AS MY NAME, SIR?
WELL, THAT'S A FINE NAME.

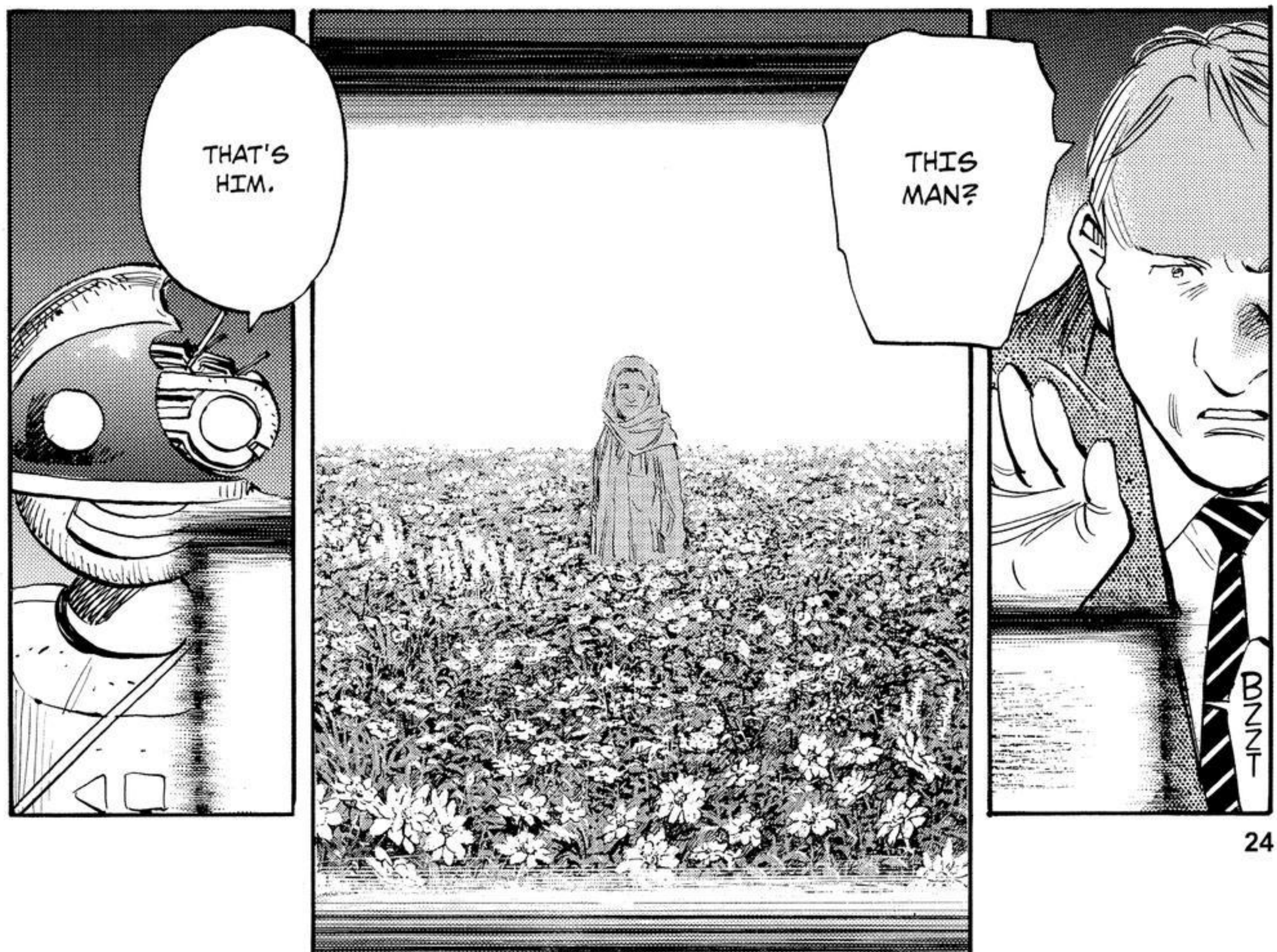
SURE YOU WILL...

SAHAD?


YES. HE'S THE MAN IN THE PHOTO YOU WERE SHOWING.

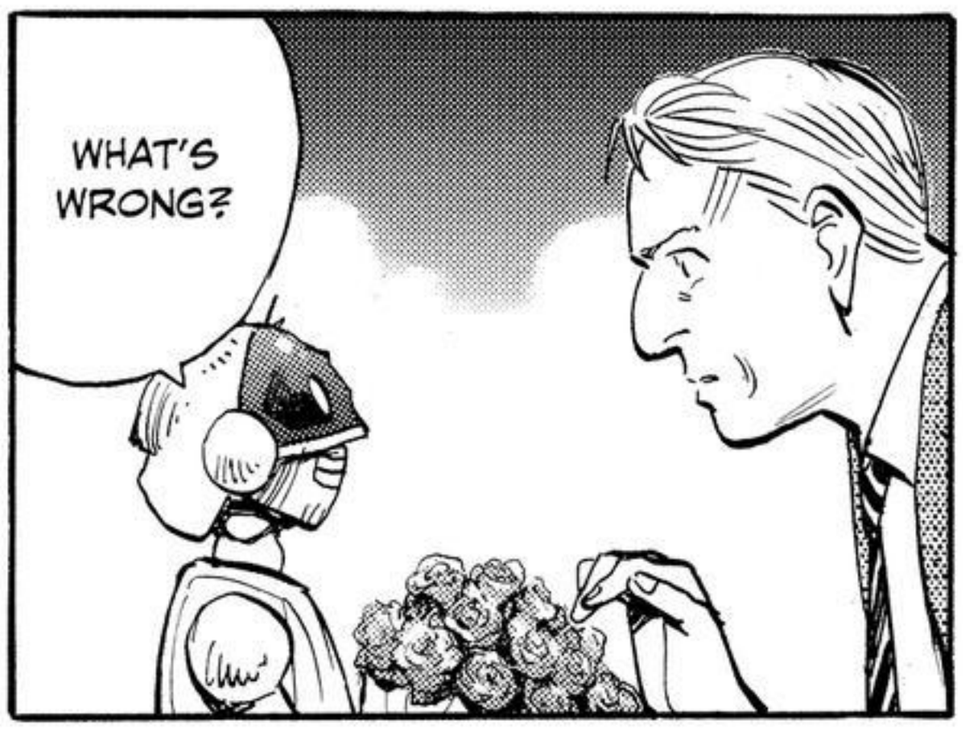

CAN I BECOME LIKE SAHAD?
AND YOU CAN, IF YOU STUDY HARD.

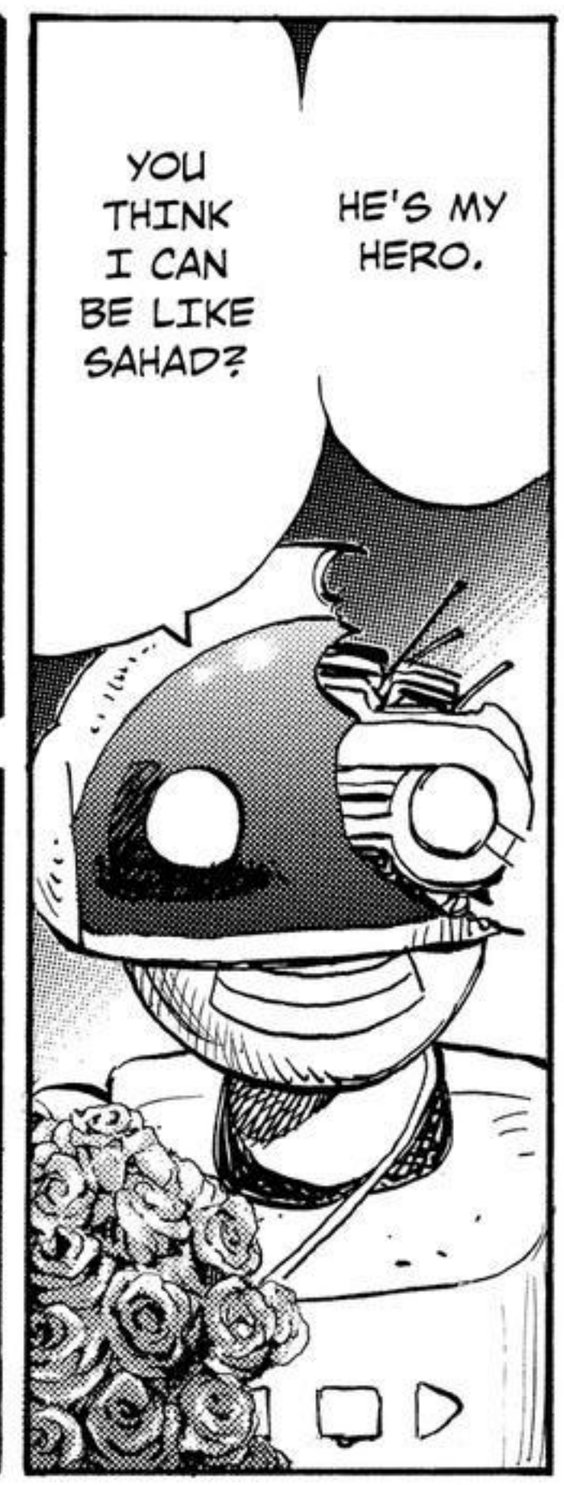
...?

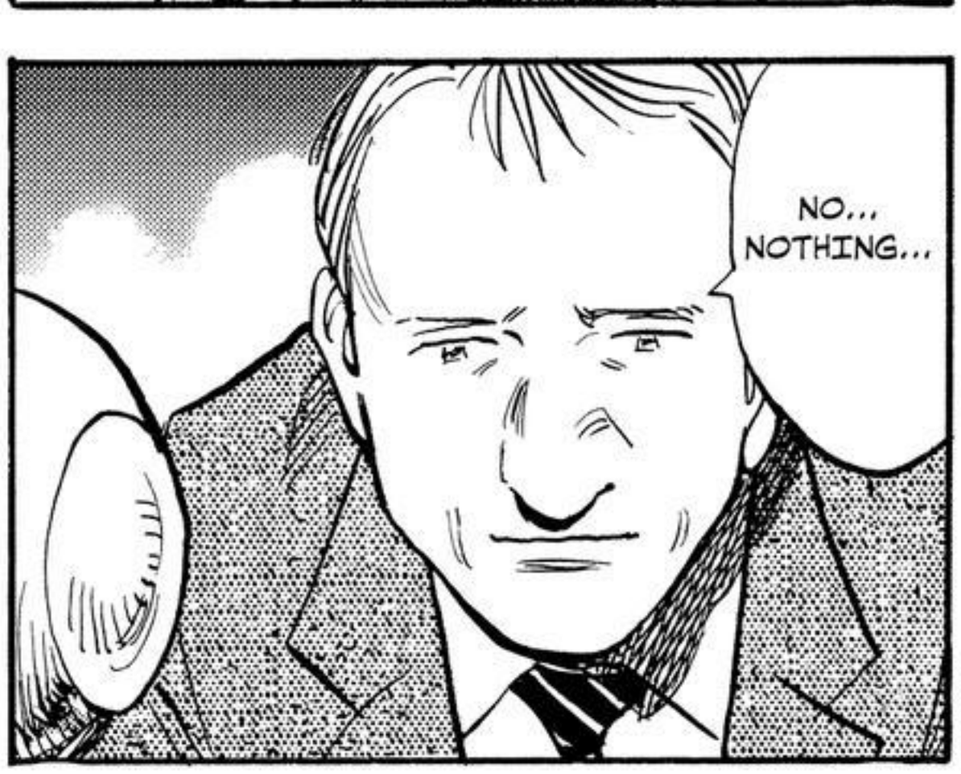

THAT'S HIM.
THIS MAN?
BZZT

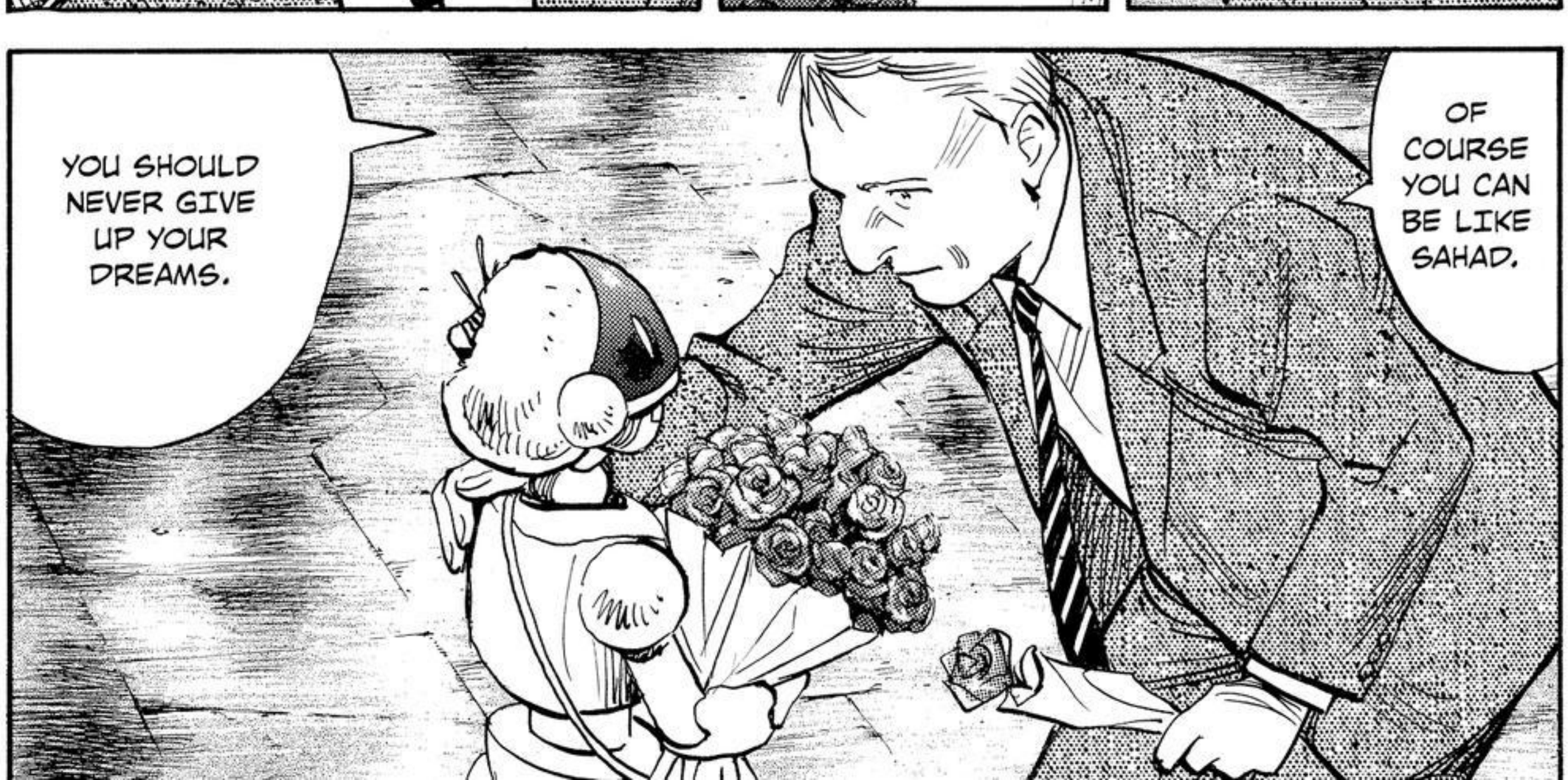
...SO HE COULD LEARN HOW TO MAKE OUR DESERT BLOOM FULL OF FLOWERS.

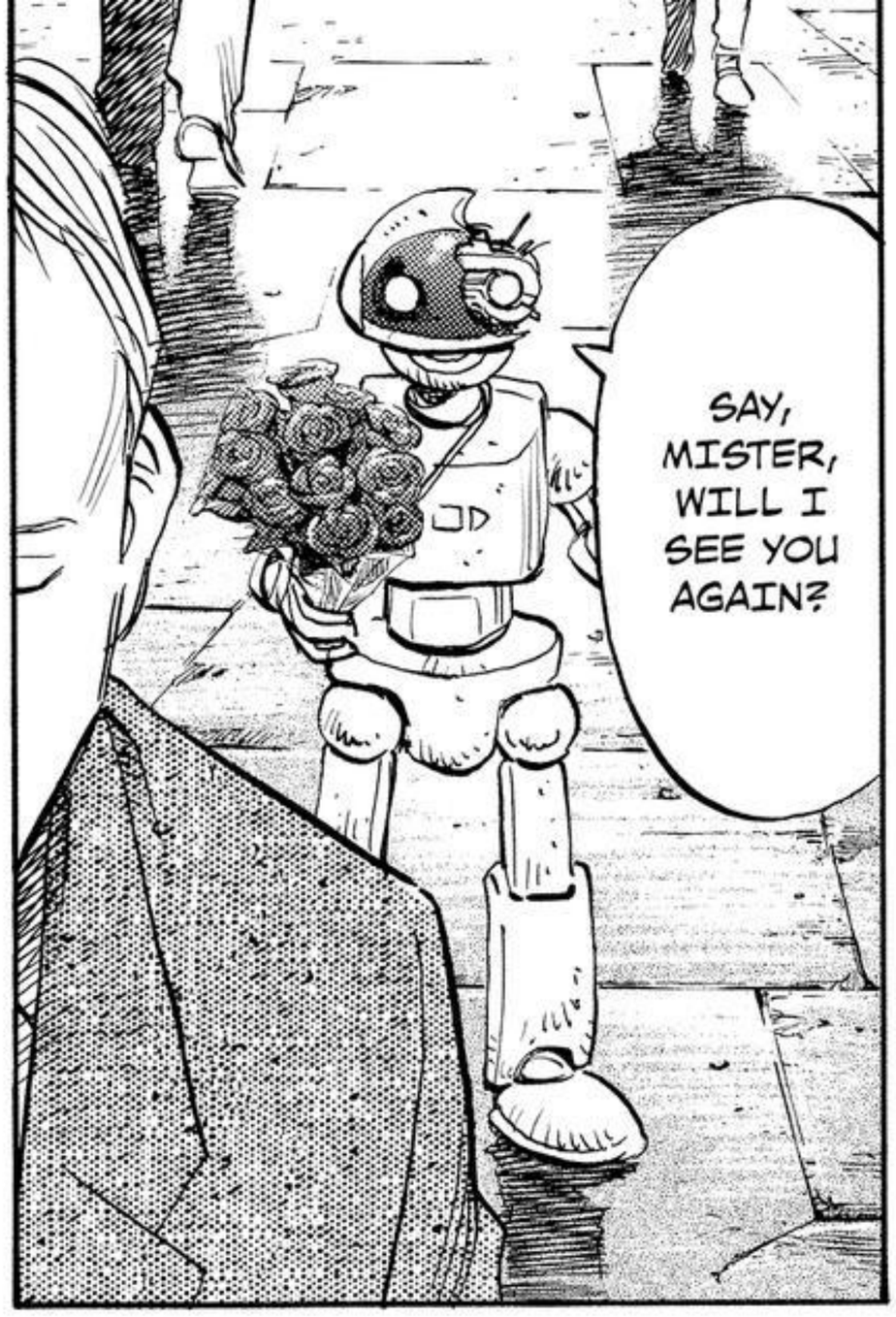
HE LEFT TO STUDY IN HOLLAND...

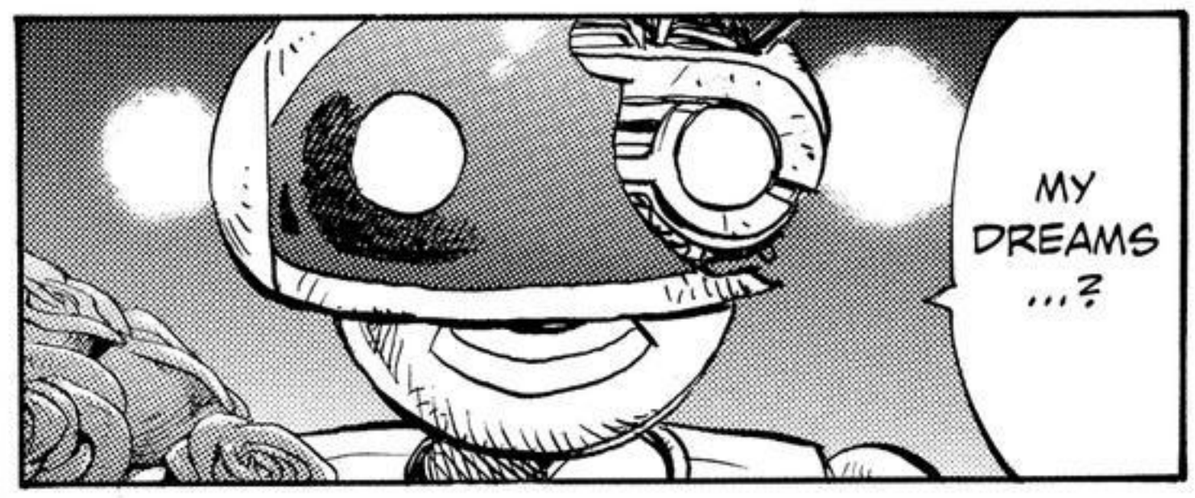




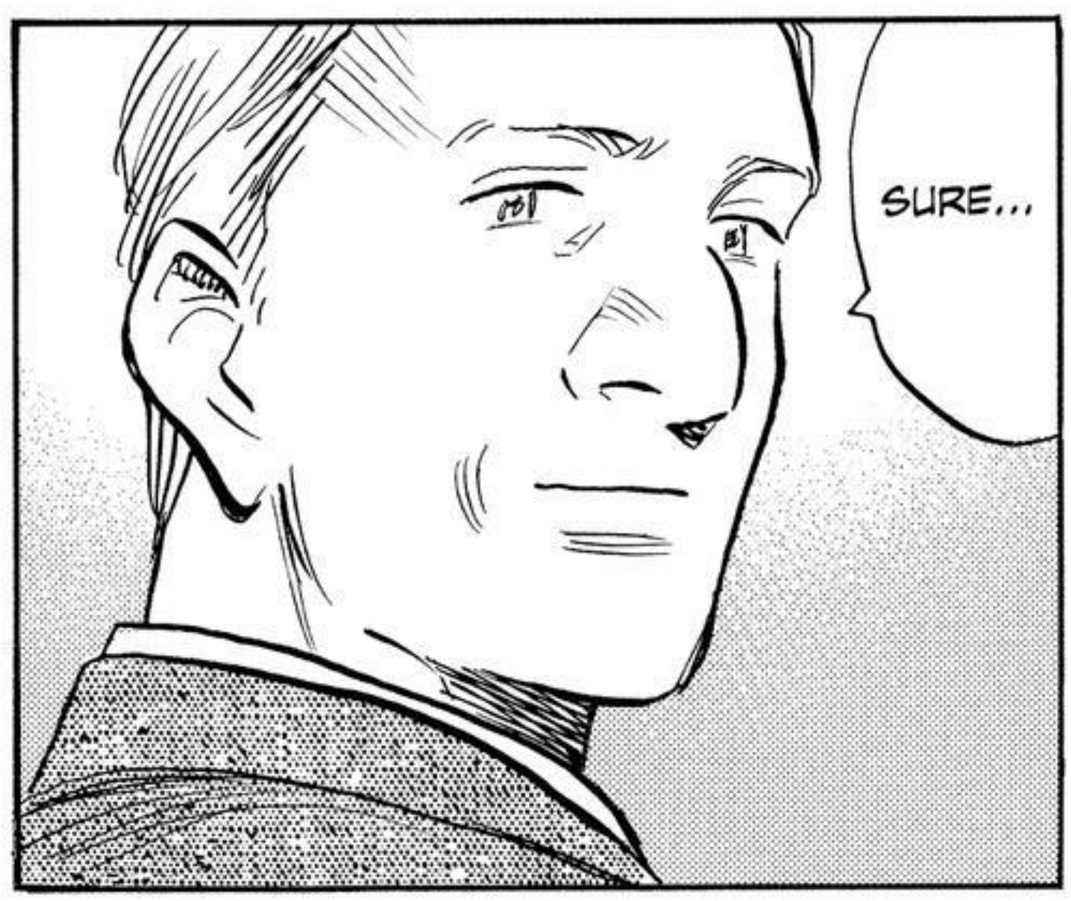


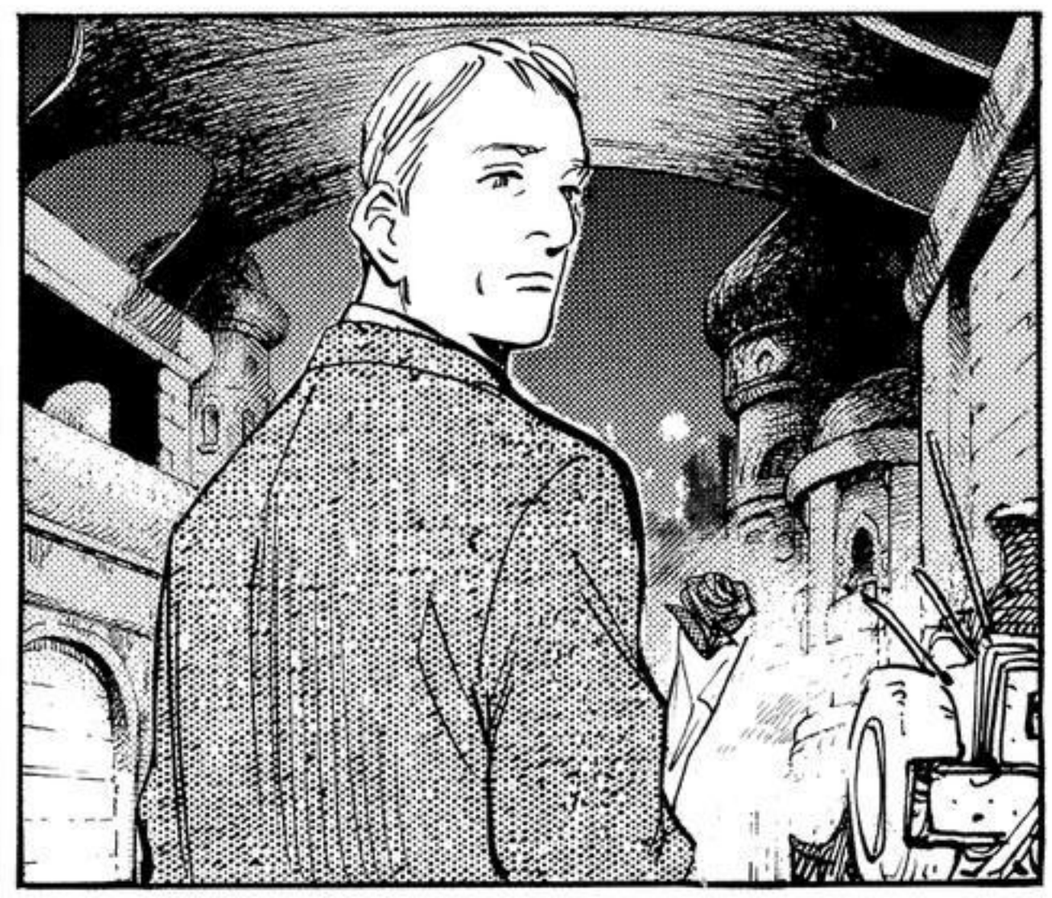


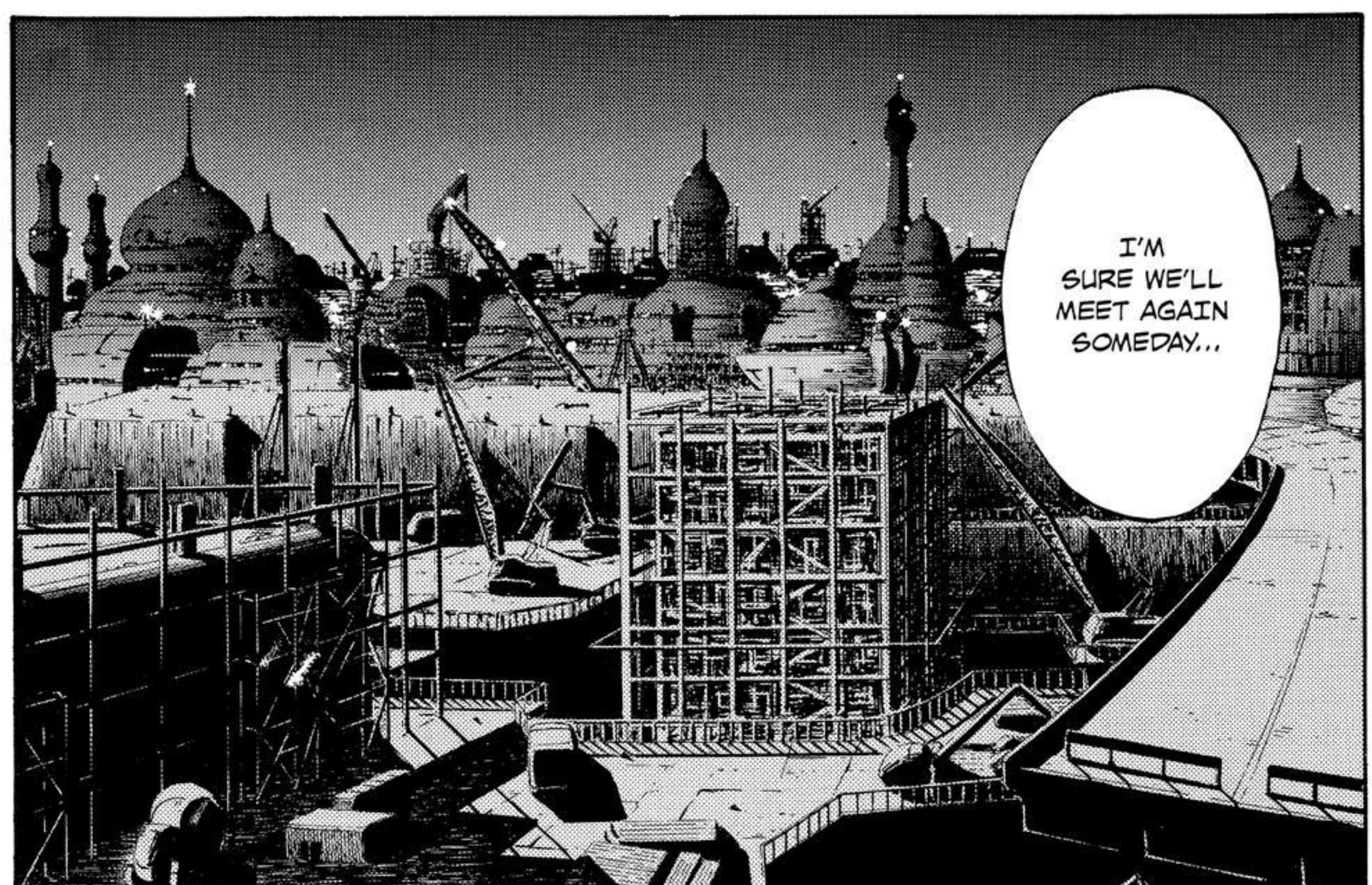

SAY, MISTER, WILL I SEE YOU AGAIN?


MY DREAMS ...?

YES, YOUR DREAMS.


SURE...




I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY...

Act 41

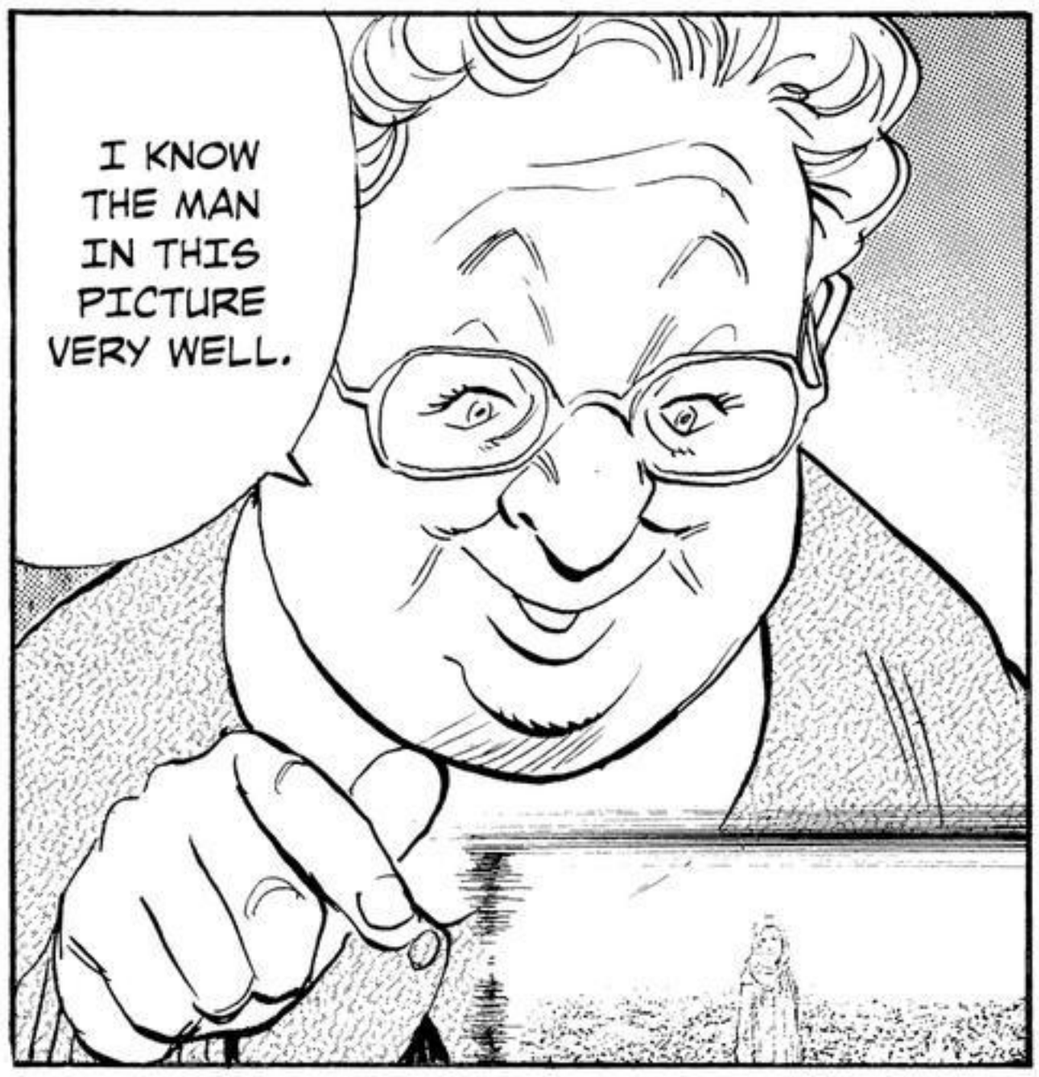
SAHAD

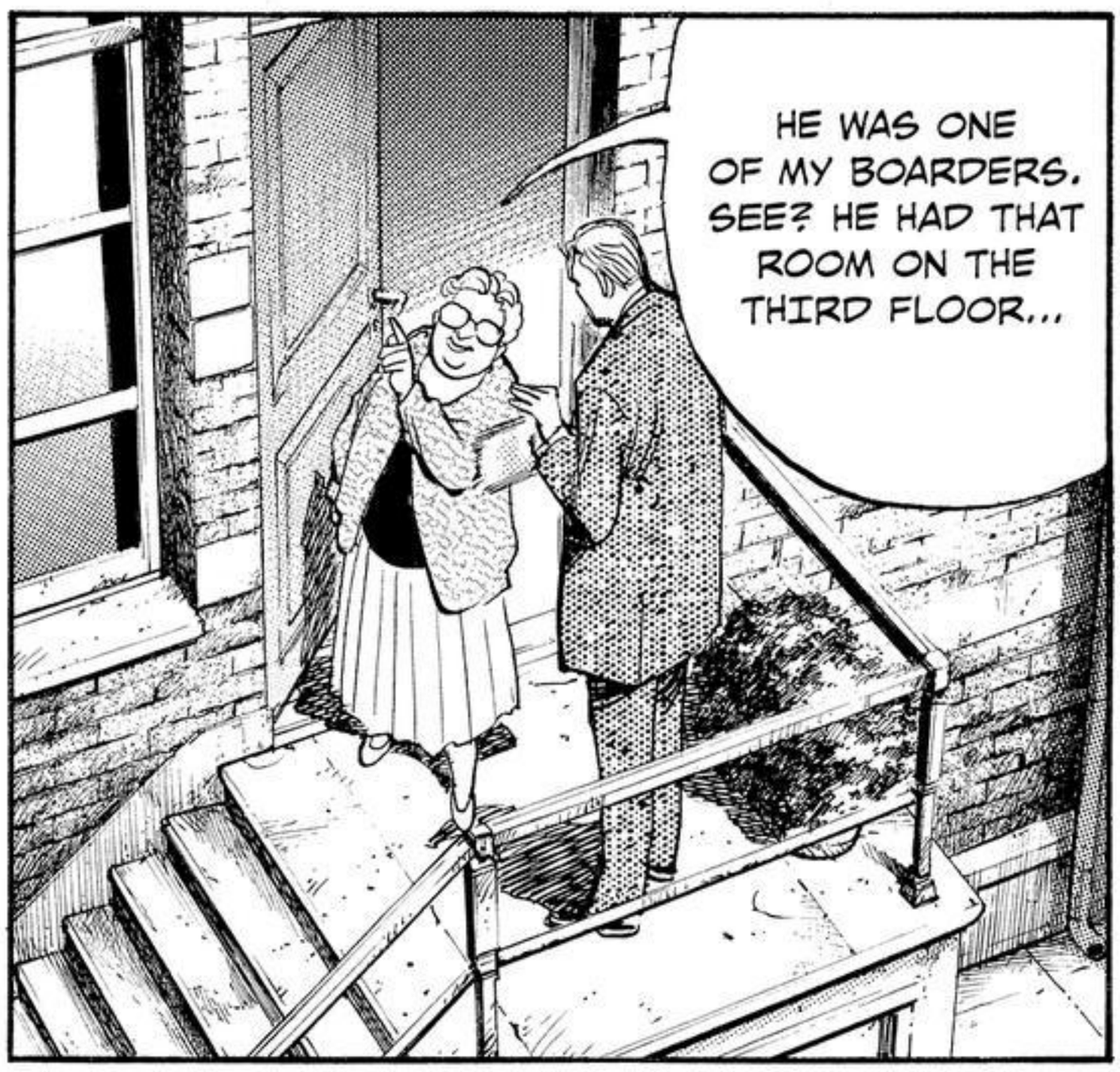
THE NETHERLANDS

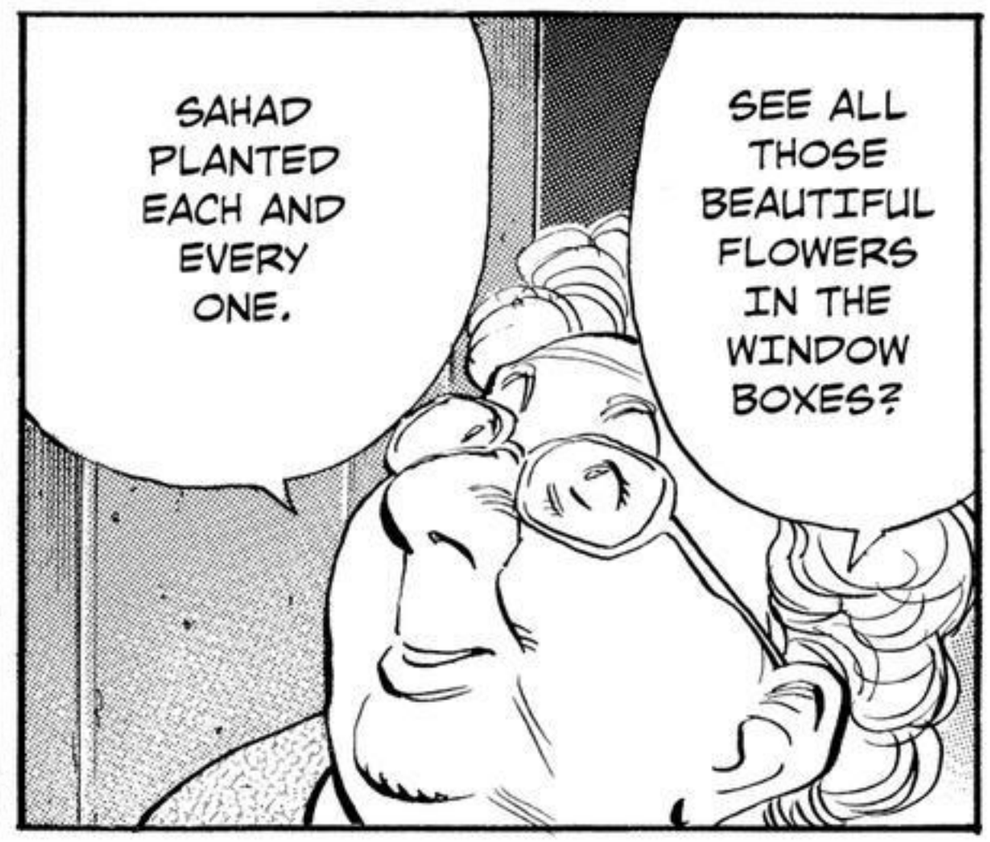
OLD TOWN, AMSTERDAM

YES, OF COURSE...

IT'S SAHAD...


I KNOW THE MAN IN THIS PICTURE VERY WELL.

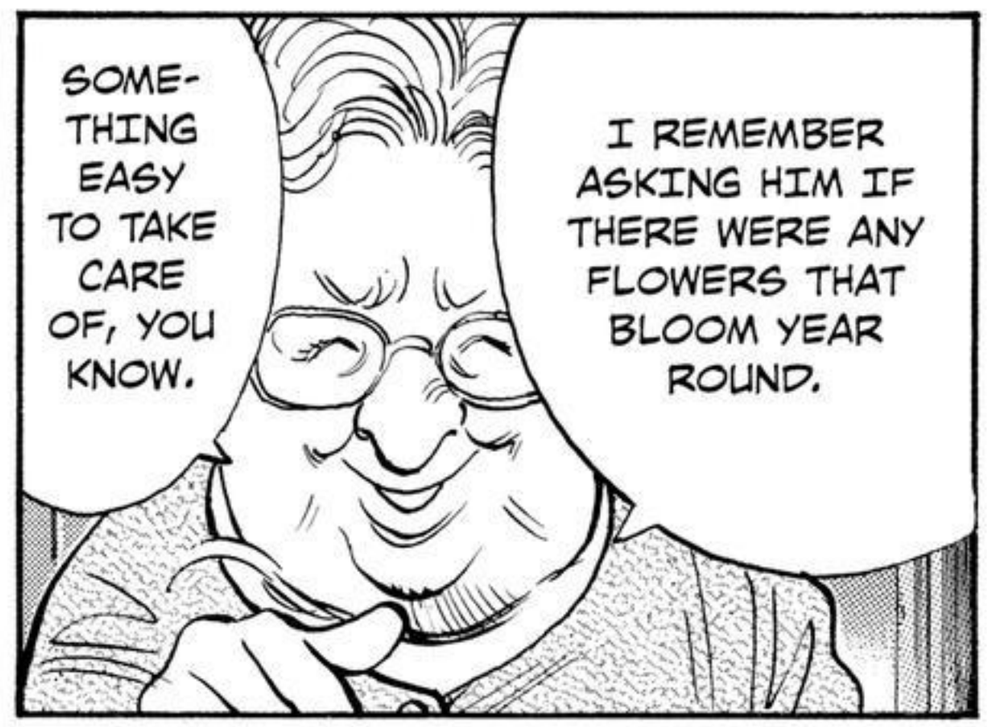

HE WAS ONE OF MY BOARDERS. SEE? HE HAD THAT ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR...


SAHAD PLANTED EACH AND EVERY ONE.
SEE ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS IN THE WINDOW BOXES?

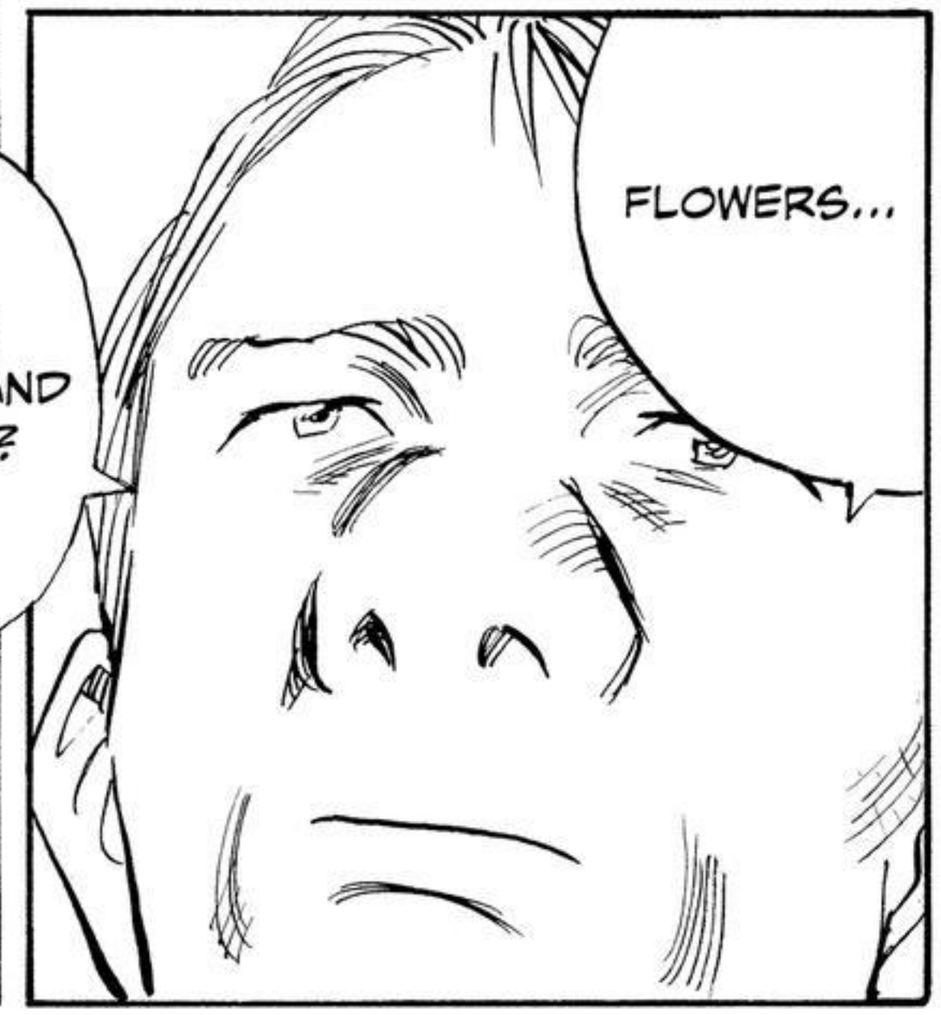
SAHAD WAS DOING HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH, YOU KNOW.
EVEN AFTER SO MANY YEARS, THE FLOWERS HE PLANTED ARE STILL GOING STRONG.

OH MY... EVEN A ROBOT LIKE YOU CAN SEE THAT, EH?
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.

HE'S RIGHT, I GUESS...
HE SAID THAT ONCE A FLOWER GOES TO SEED, IT MUST WITHER AND DIE.

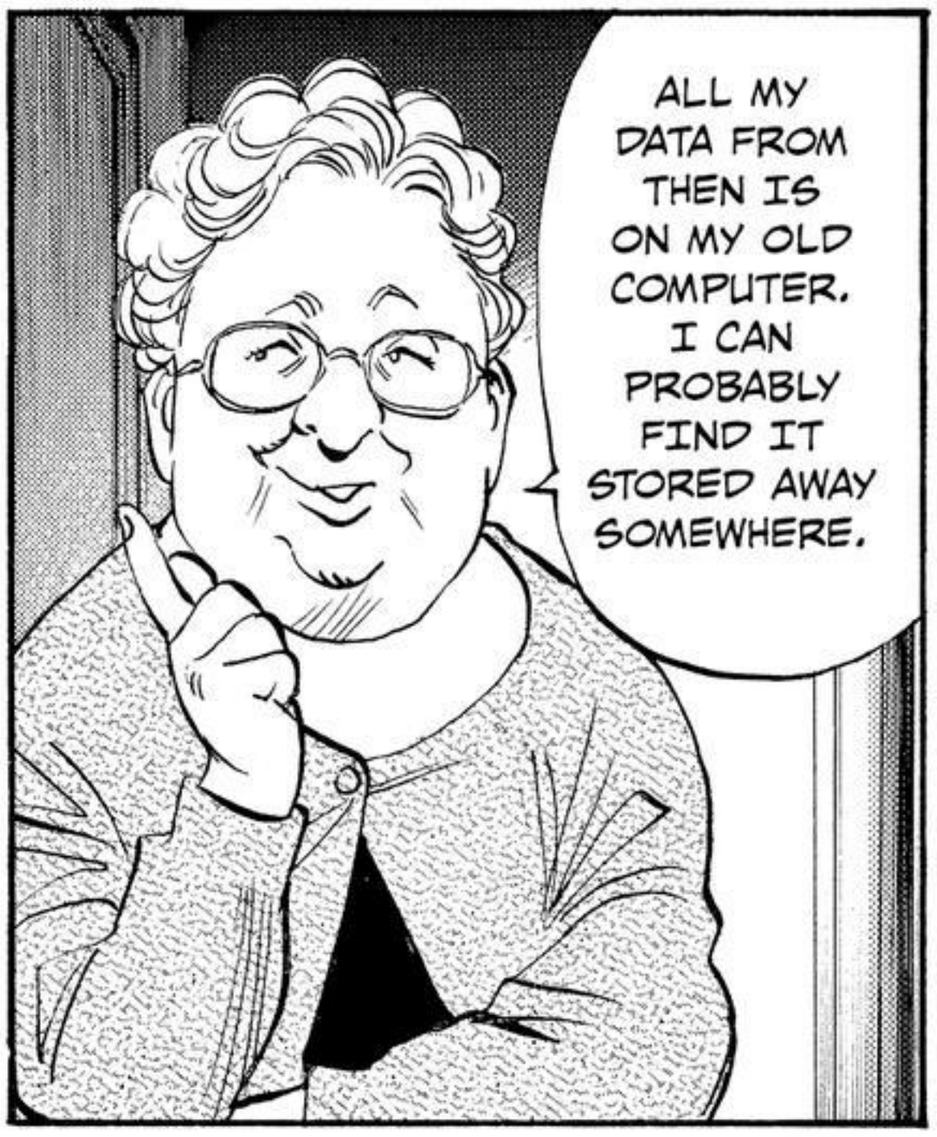

SOME-THING EASY TO TAKE CARE OF, YOU KNOW.
I REMEMBER ASKING HIM IF THERE WERE ANY FLOWERS THAT BLOOM YEAR ROUND.

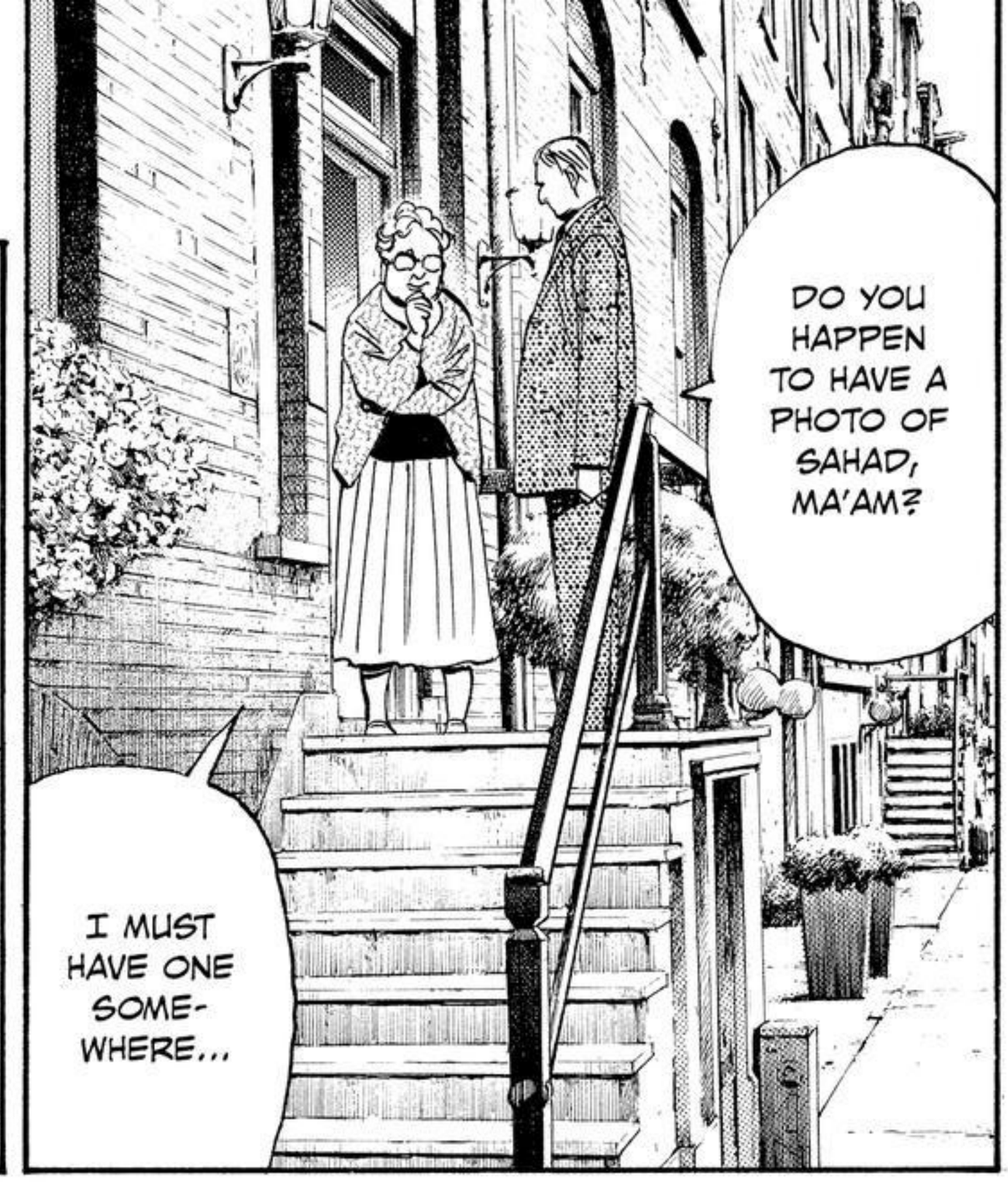
WELL? WHAT DID HE SAY?

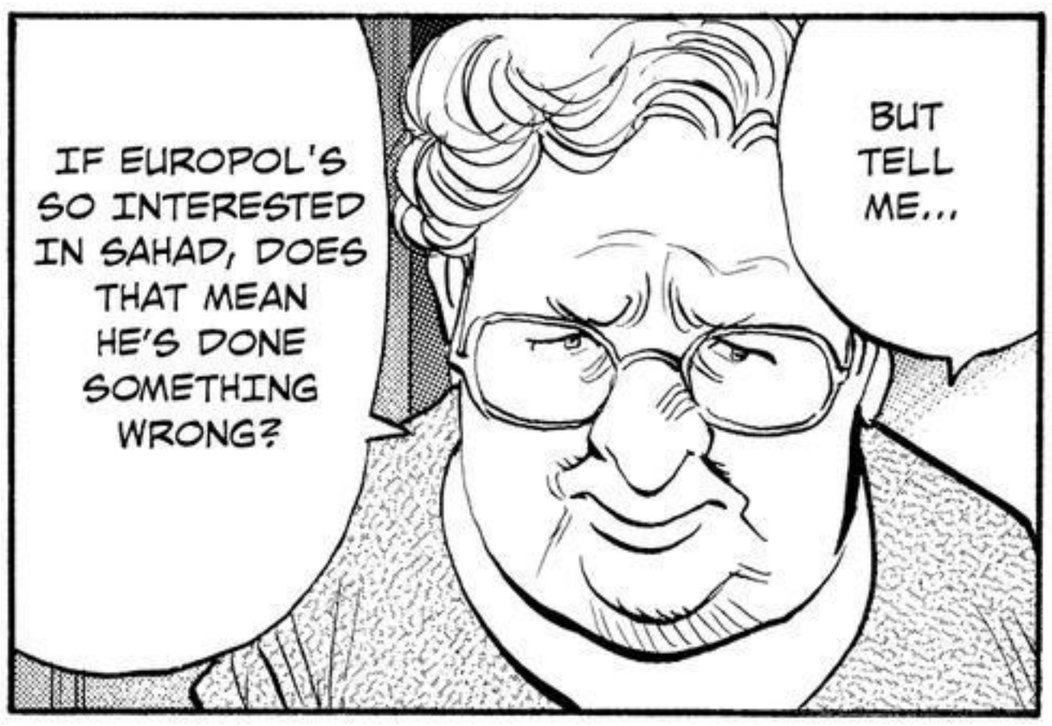


Act 41

SAHAD


ALL MY DATA FROM THEN IS ON MY OLD COMPUTER. I CAN PROBABLY FIND IT STORED AWAY SOMEWHERE.

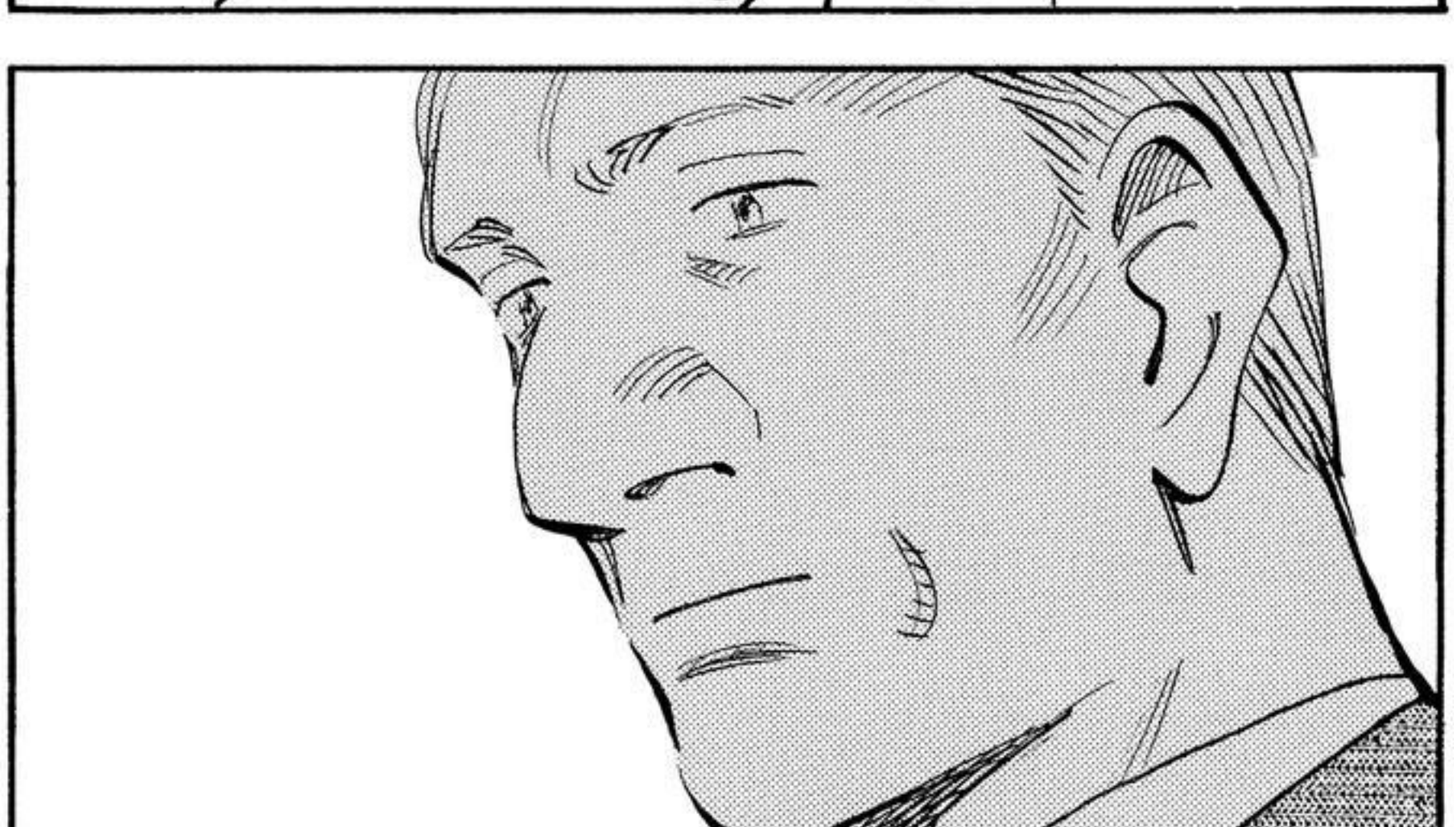

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A PHOTO OF SAHAD, MA'AM?
I MUST HAVE ONE SOME-WHERE...


IF EUROPOL'S SO INTERESTED IN SAHAD, DOES THAT MEAN HE'S DONE SOMETHING WRONG?
BUT TELL ME...

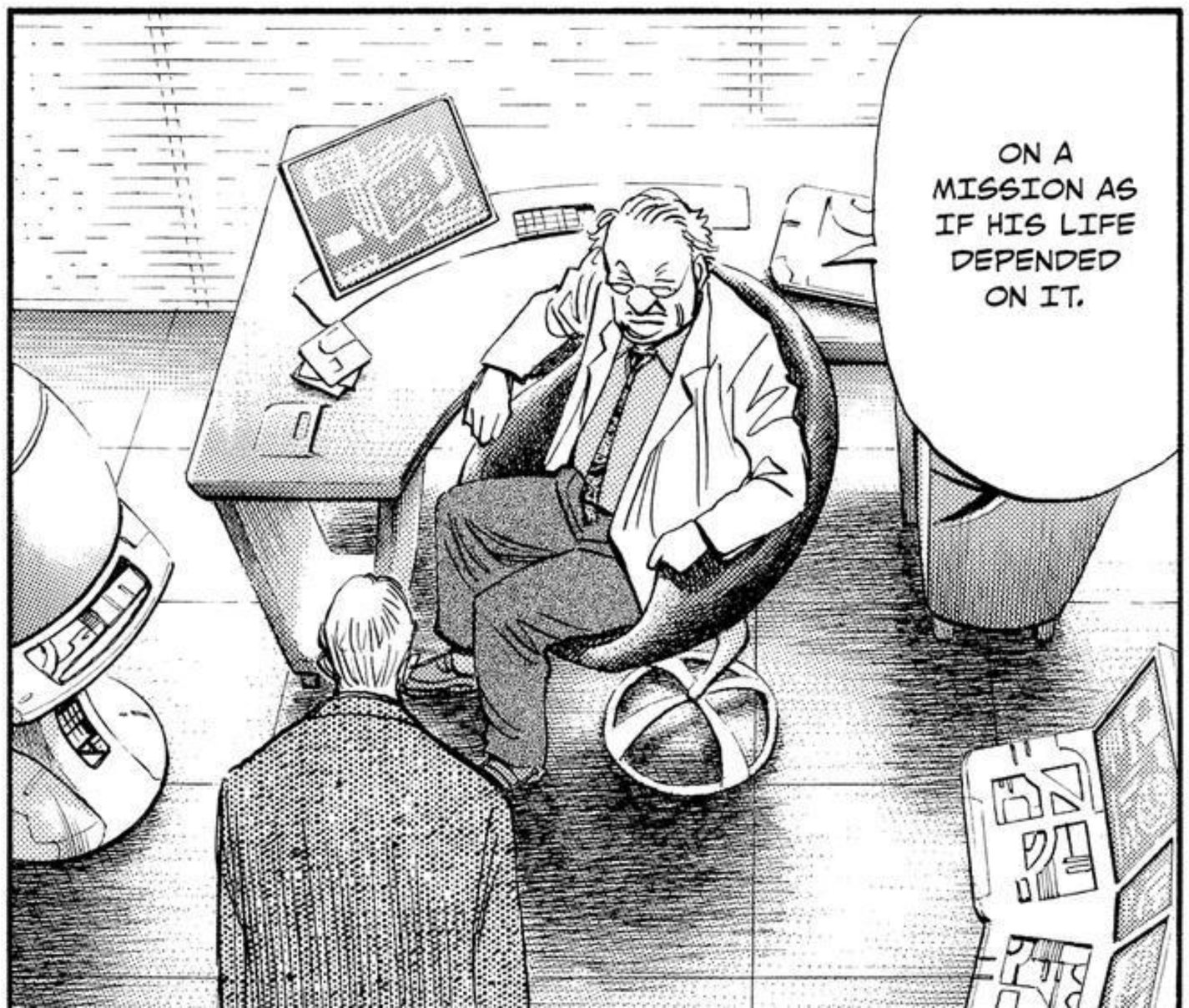
I'D APPRE-CIATE IT.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK. WHY DON'T YOU CHECK BACK WITH ME AGAIN LATER?

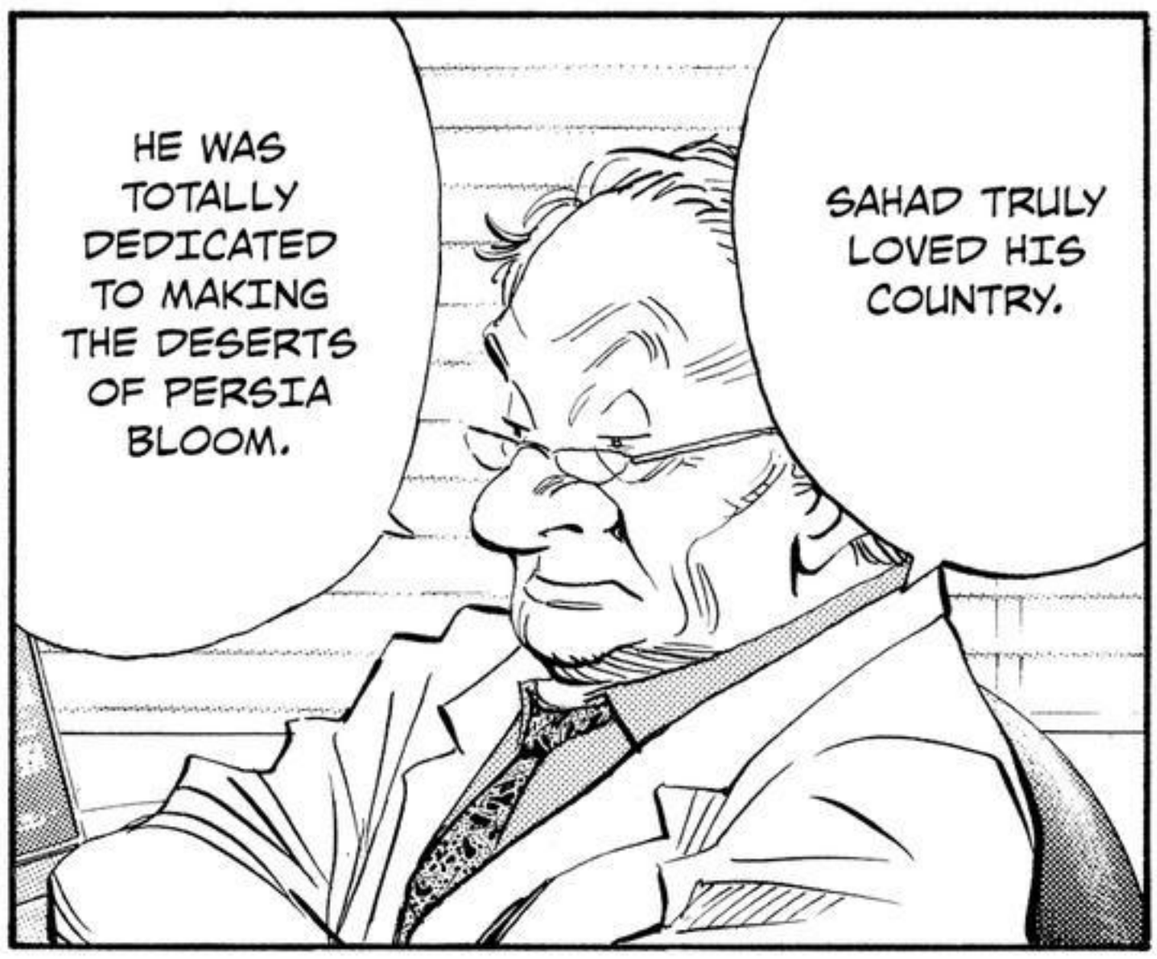
YOU'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN HE WAS A ROBOT.
HE WAS A TRUE GENTLE-MAN.
OF COURSE NOT. SUCH A NICE MAN AS SAHAD WOULD NEVER GET INTO TROUBLE.

NO, MA'AM.

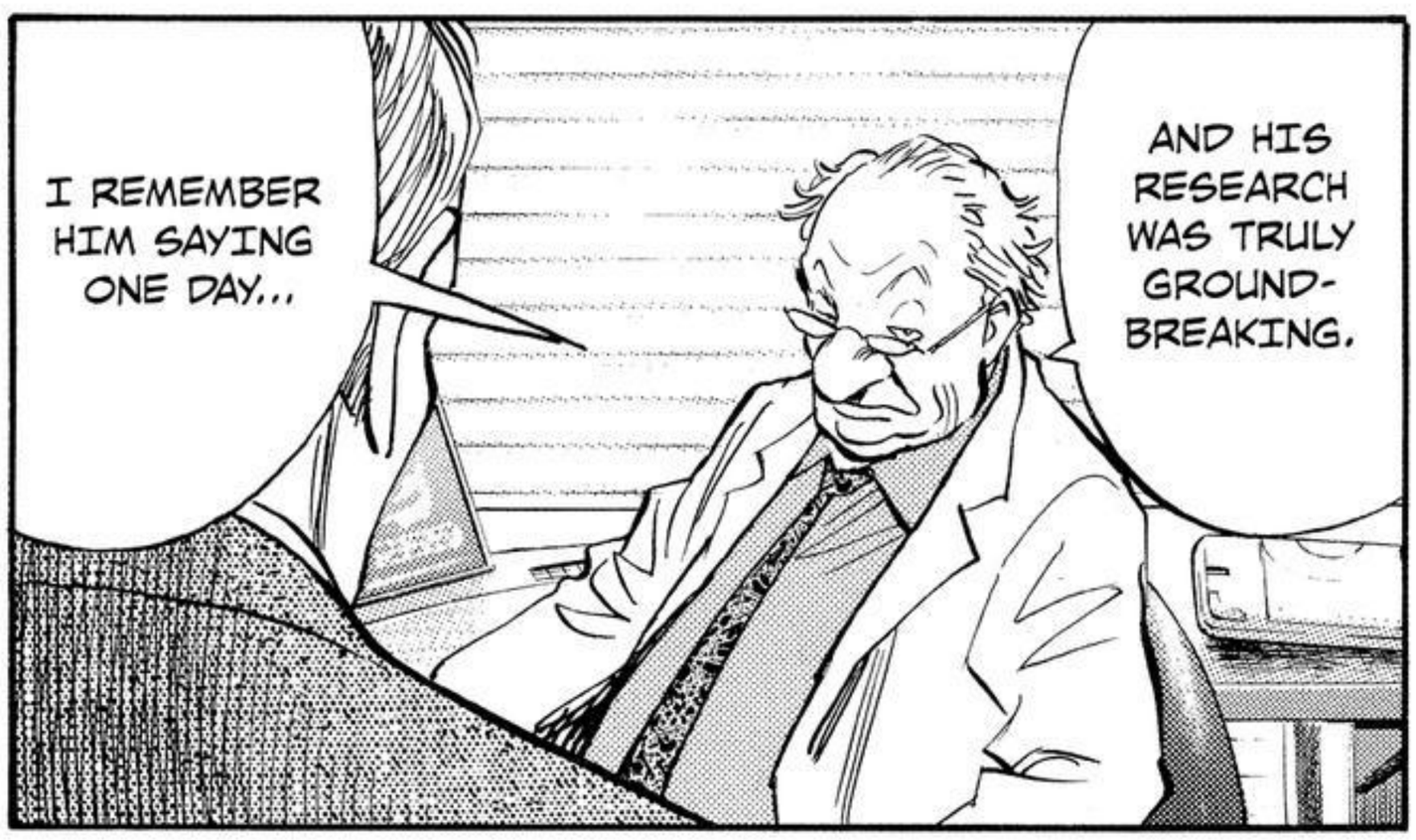


AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY



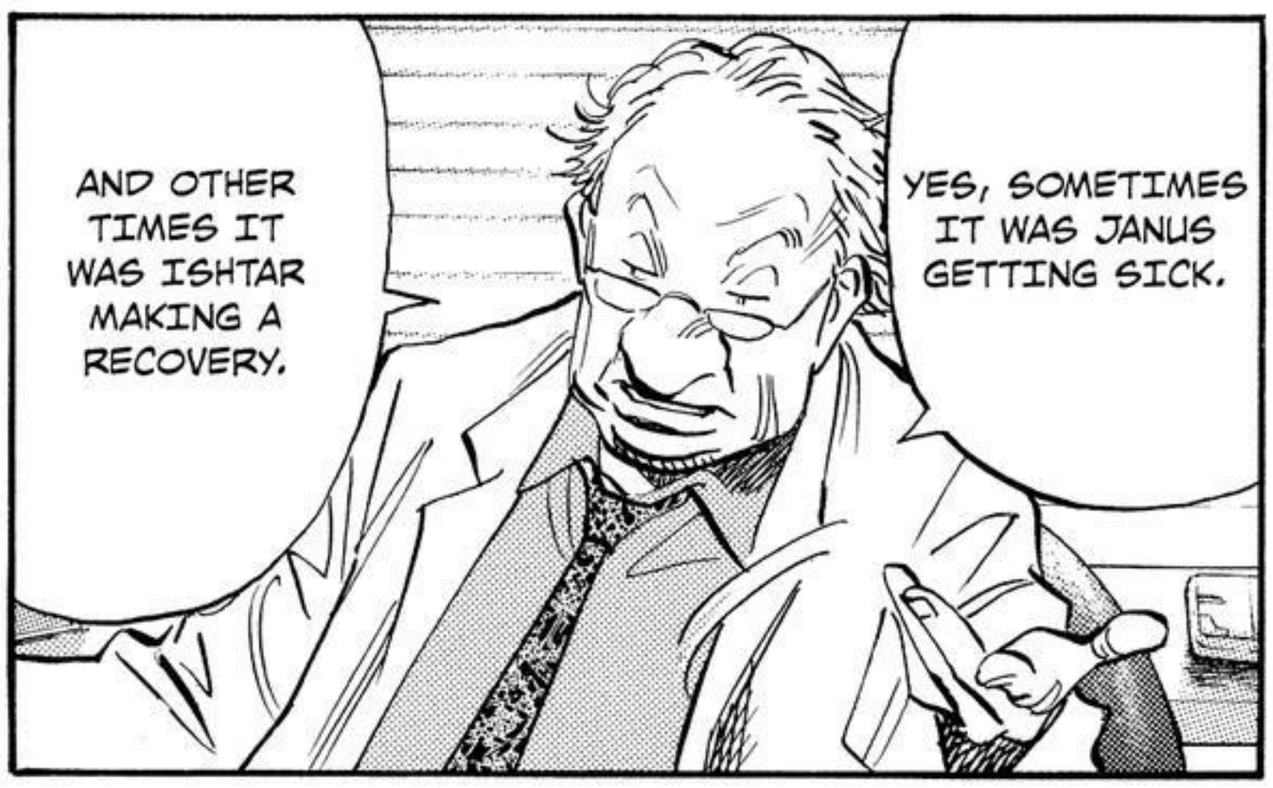

HE WAS TOTALLY DEDICATED TO MAKING THE DESERTS OF PERSIA BLOOM.
SAHAD TRULY LOVED HIS COUNTRY.

THAT'S RIGHT.
HIS LIFE?


I REMEMBER HIM SAYING ONE DAY...
AND HIS RESEARCH WAS TRULY GROUND-BREAKING.

IGOR?

"PROFESSOR, LOOK HOW STRONG IGOR HAS BECOME."


AND OTHER TIMES IT WAS ISHTAR MAKING A RECOVERY.
YES, SOMETIMES IT WAS JANUS GETTING SICK.

THE NAMES OF HIS TULIPS, YOU SEE...

...?

...THEY GROW BETTER THAT WAY.

ACCORDING TO HIM...

...

ALL HIS TULIPS HAD NAMES.

BUT SOMETIMES HE SAID SOME OF THE MOST UNSCIENTIFIC THINGS.

UNSCIENTIFIC? THAT'S INTER-ESTING.

...HE WAS A ***ROBOT***. THE MOST SCIENTIFICALLY ADVANCED ROBOT IN PERSIA...

PLEASE DON'T TAKE OFFENSE, INSPECTOR, BUT...

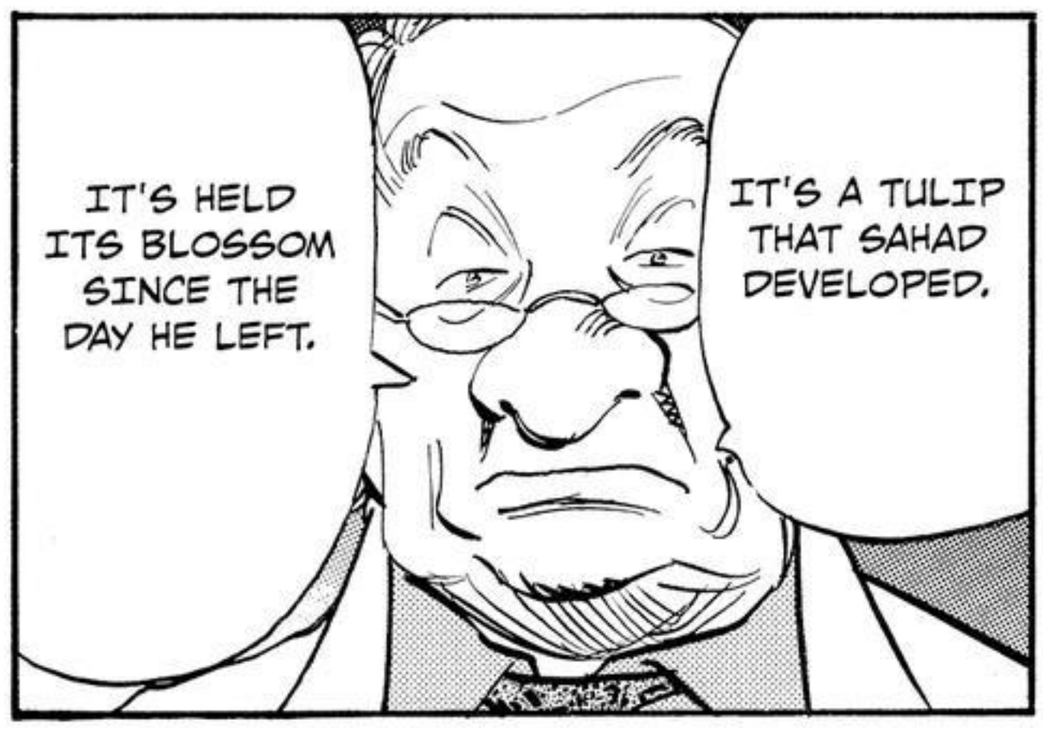
...

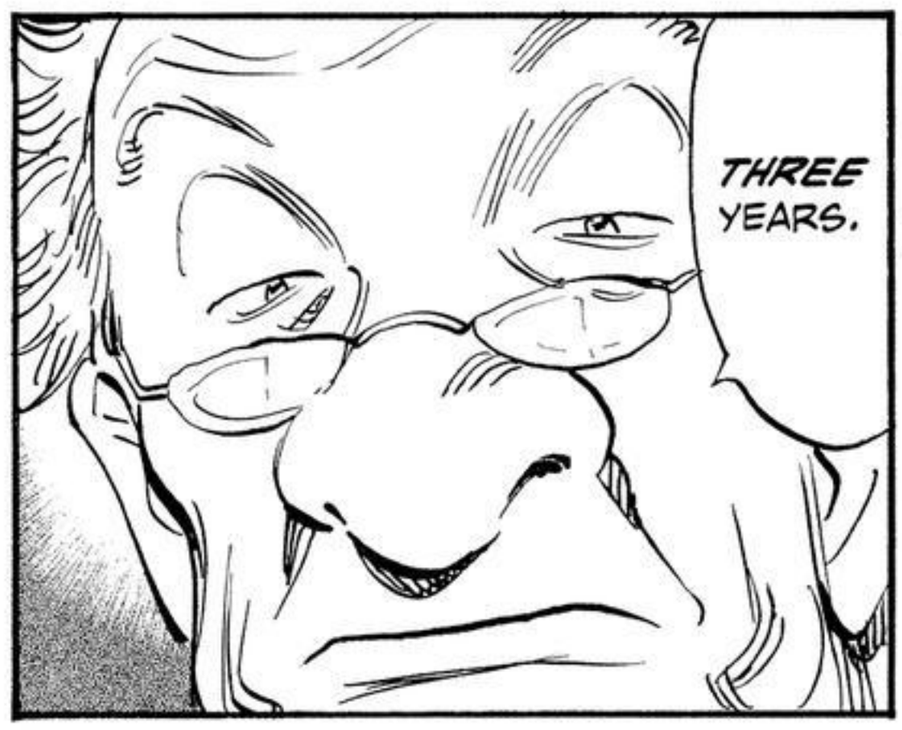
HEY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

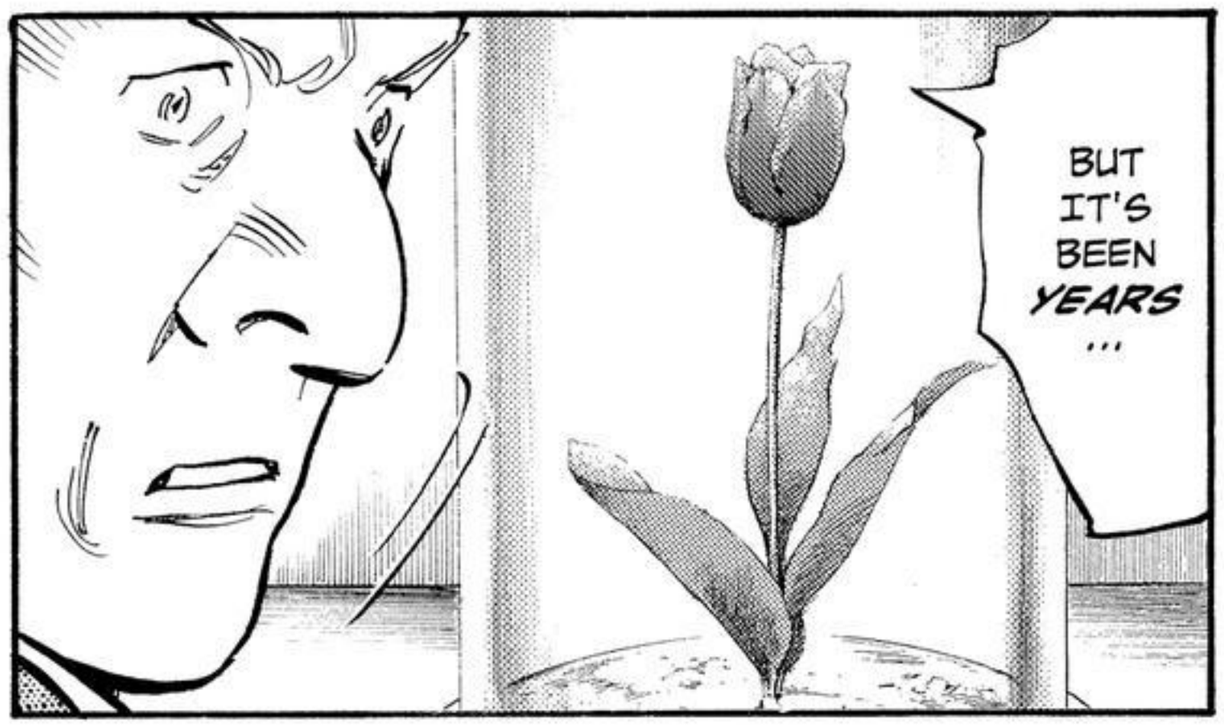
SAID THINGS WITH NOTHING TO BASE IT ON.

HERE...

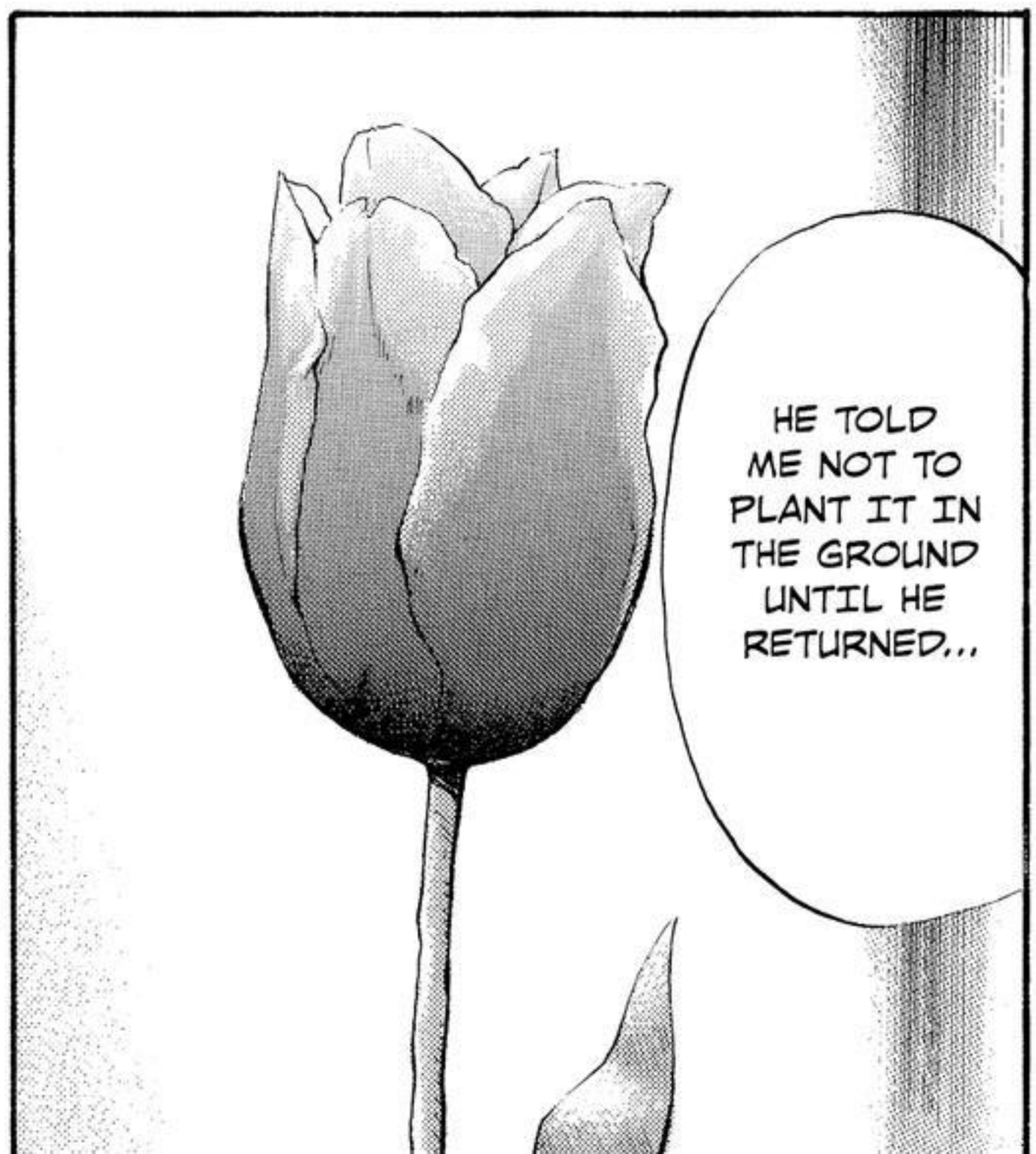
YES.
A TULIP...

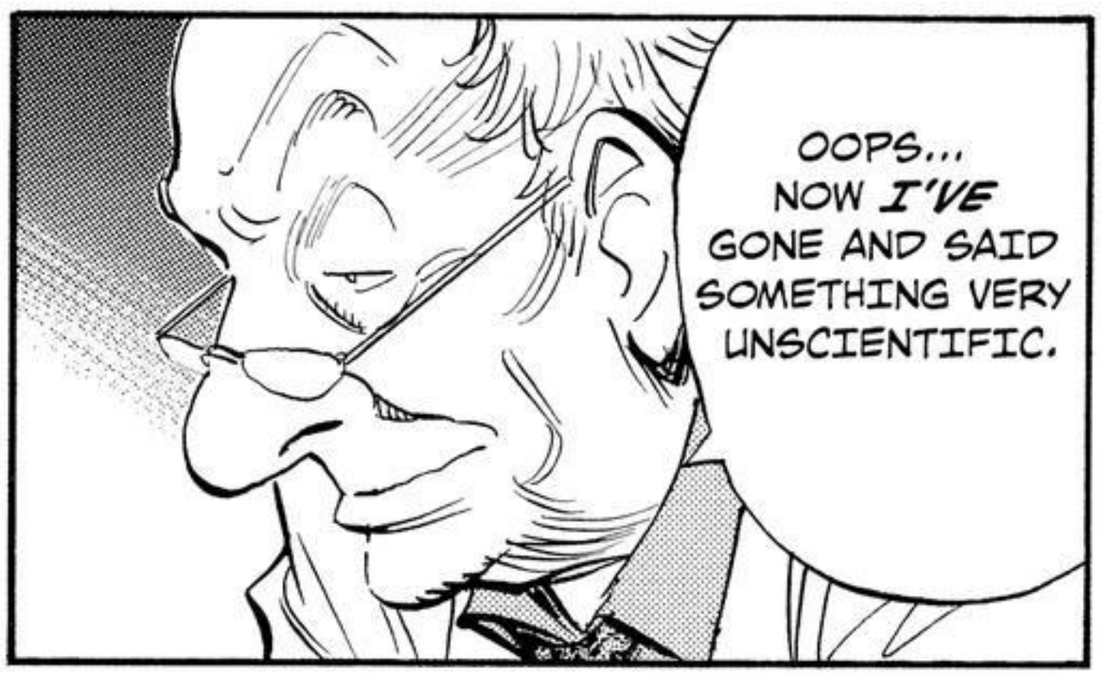

IT'S HELD ITS BLOSSOM SINCE THE DAY HE LEFT.
IT'S A TULIP THAT SAHAD DEVELOPED.

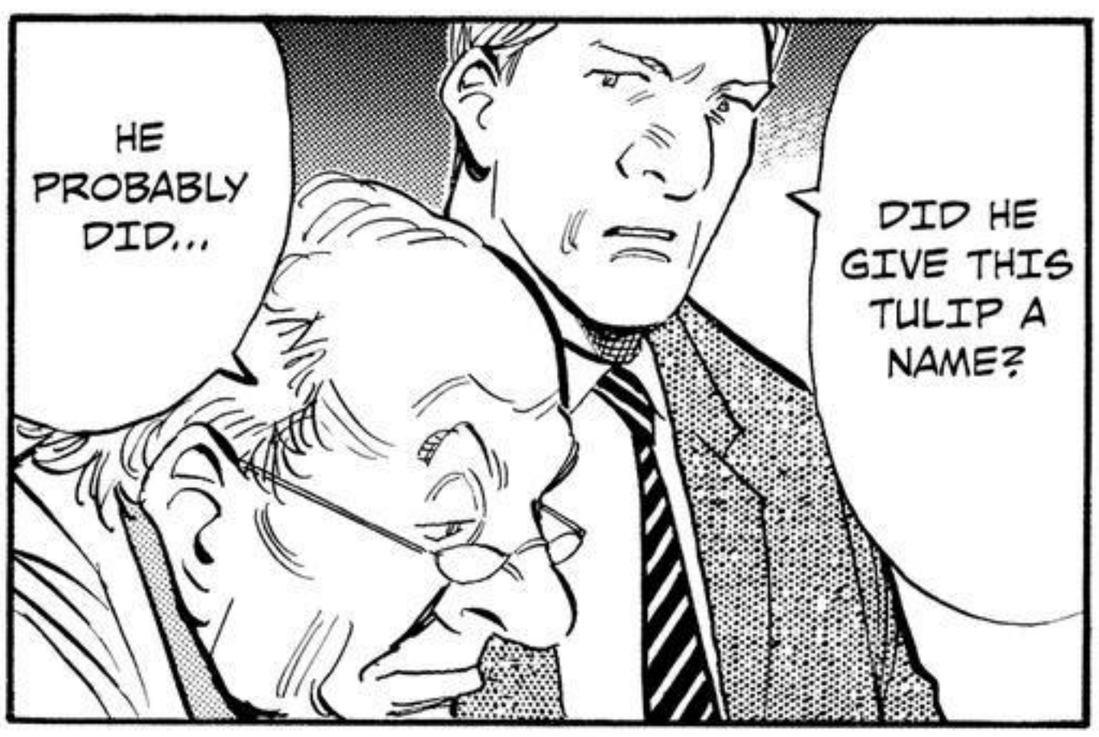

THREE YEARS.


BUT IT'S BEEN YEARS ...

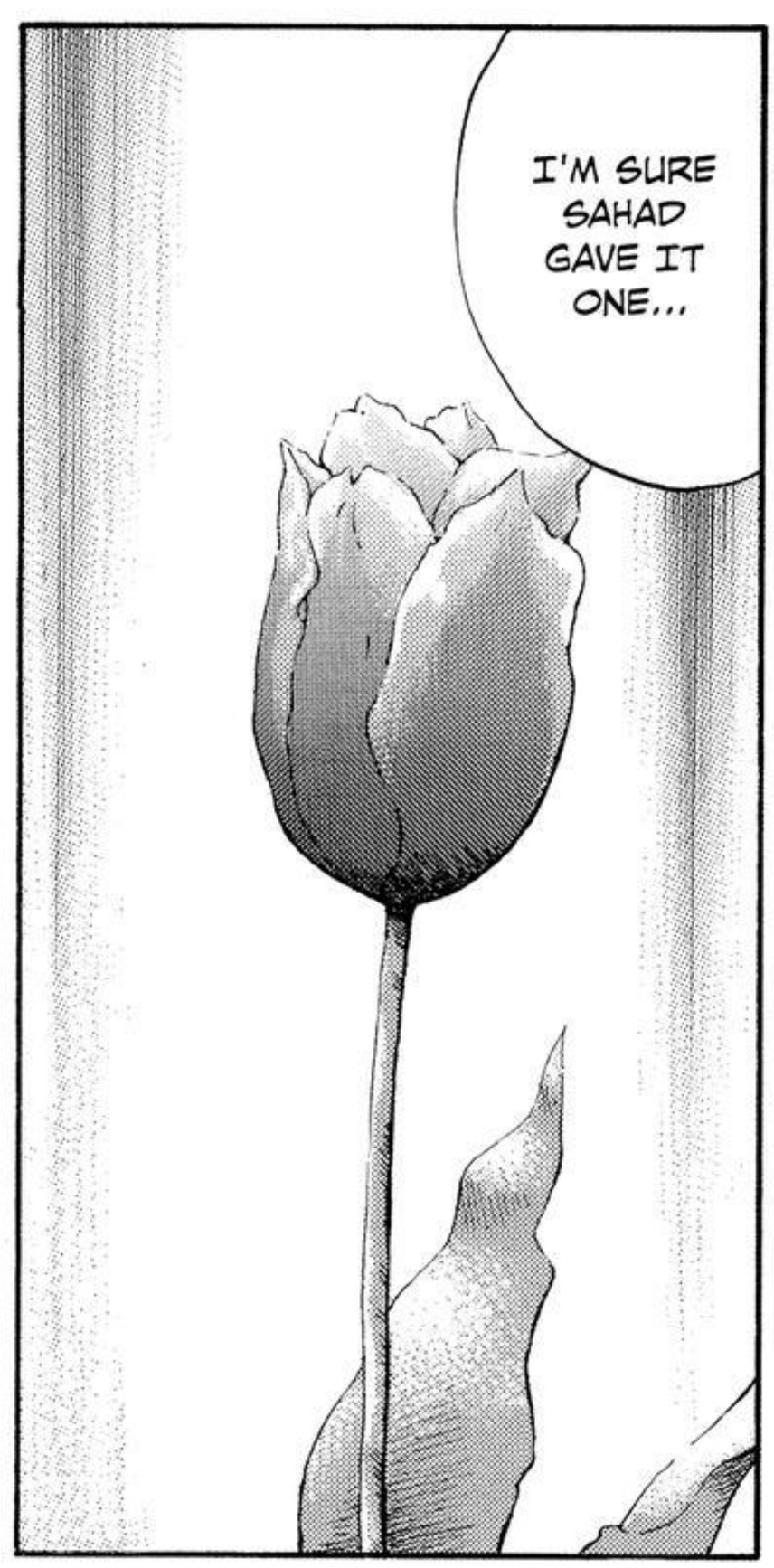
IF HE NEVER COMES BACK, THIS IS SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO STUDY, I GUESS.
...


HE TOLD ME NOT TO PLANT IT IN THE GROUND UNTIL HE RETURNED...


OOPS... NOW *I'VE* GONE AND SAID SOMETHING VERY UNSCIENTIFIC.


DID HE GIVE THIS TULIP A NAME?
HE PROBABLY DID...

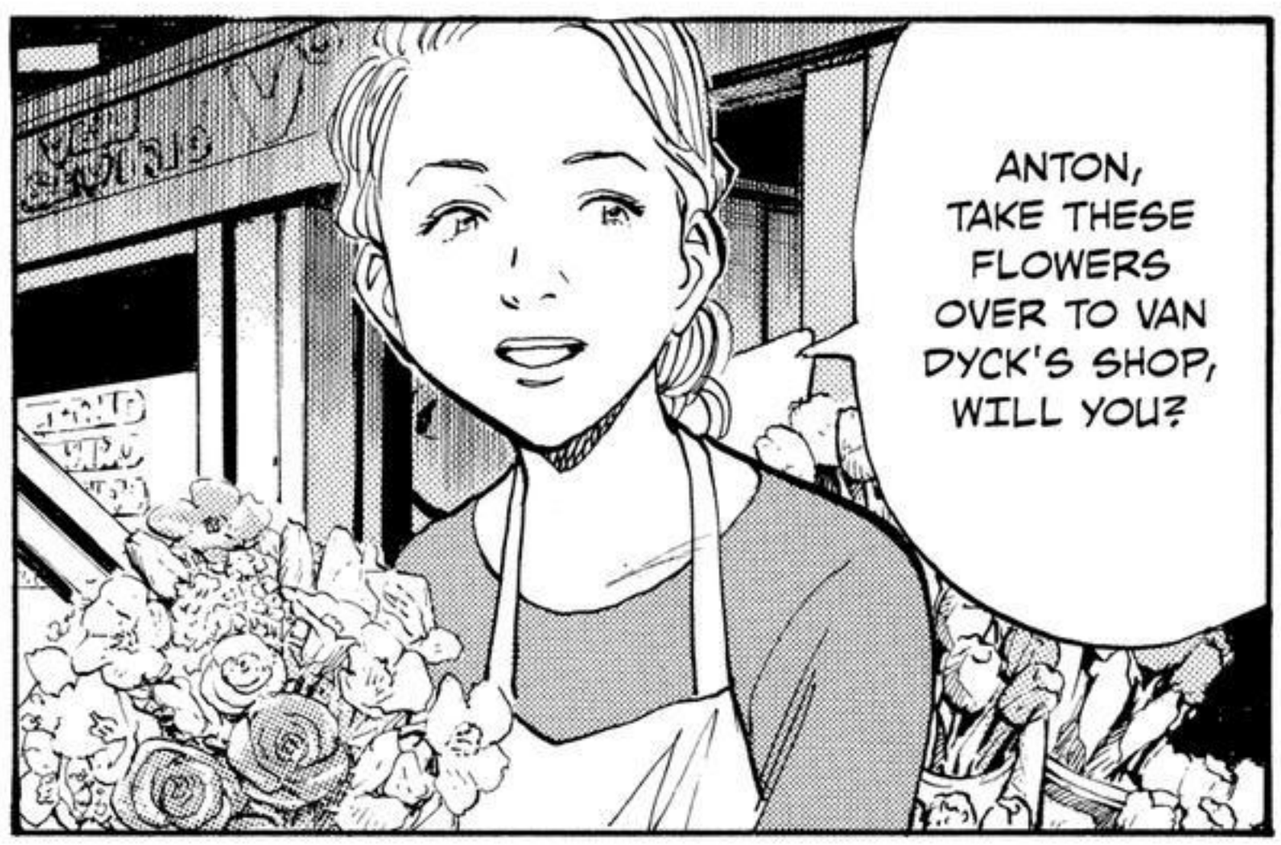
BUT I FEEL AS THOUGH THIS FLOWER IS WAITING FOR HIM...

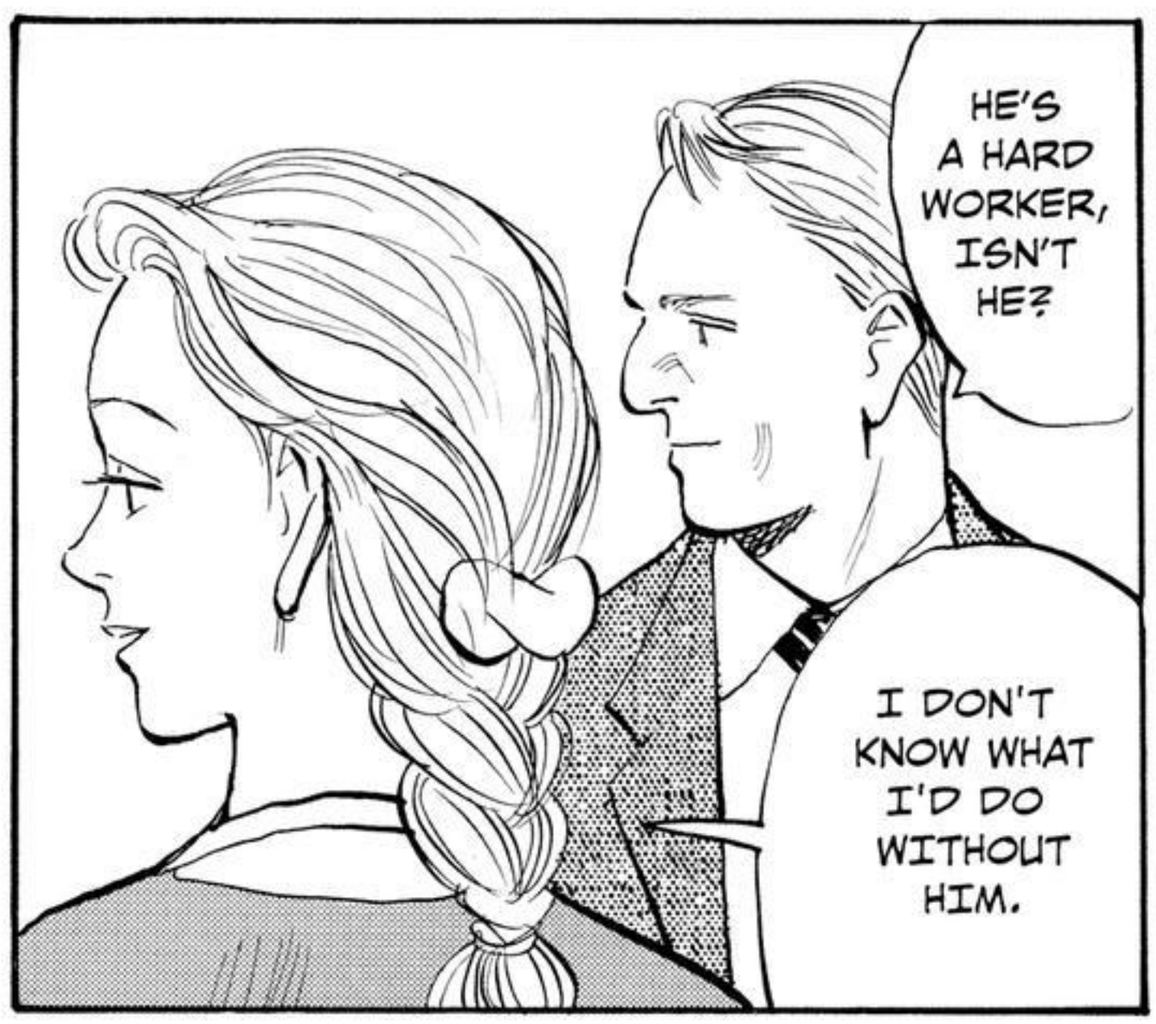

I'M SURE SAHAD GAVE IT ONE...

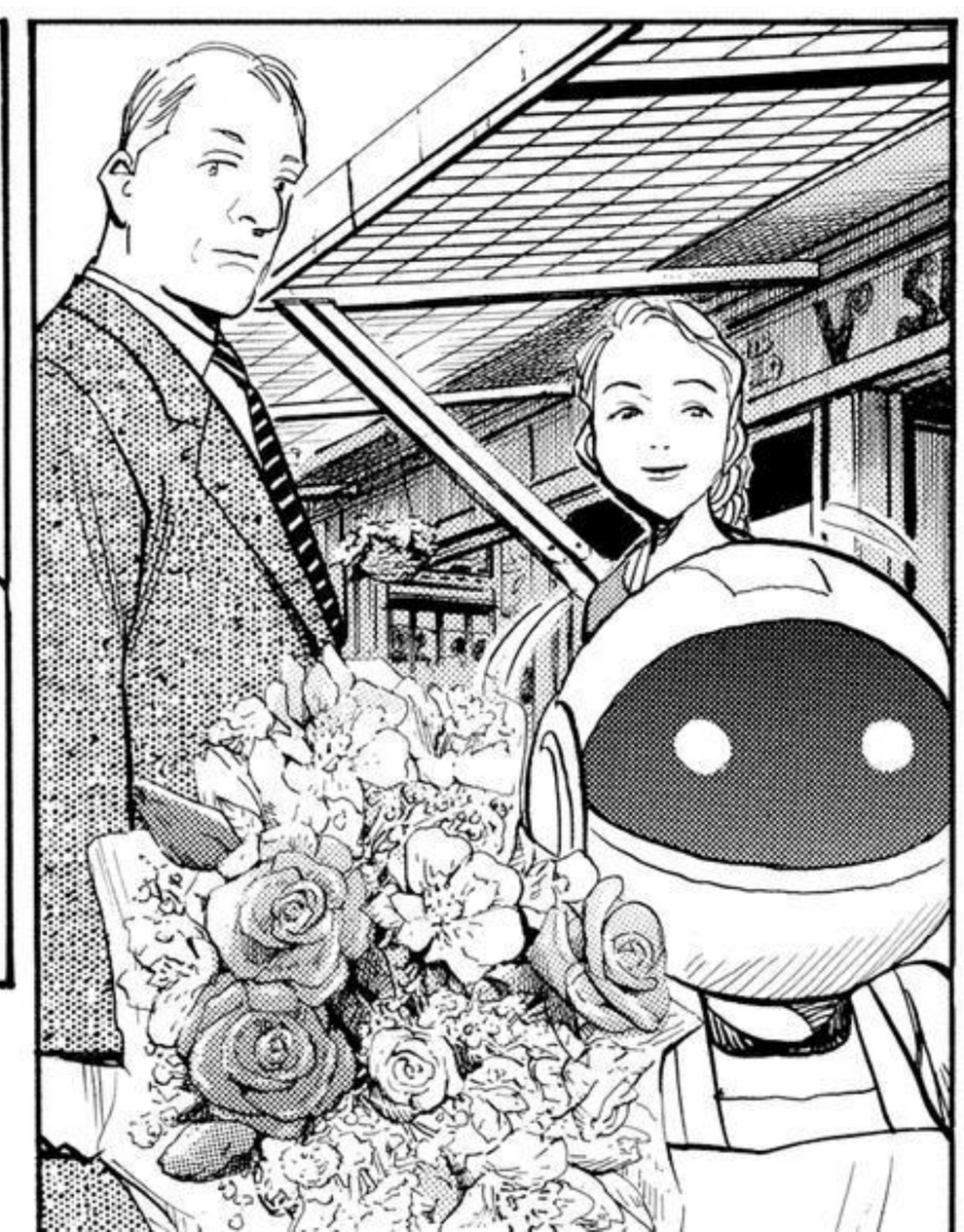
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE, MA'AM...

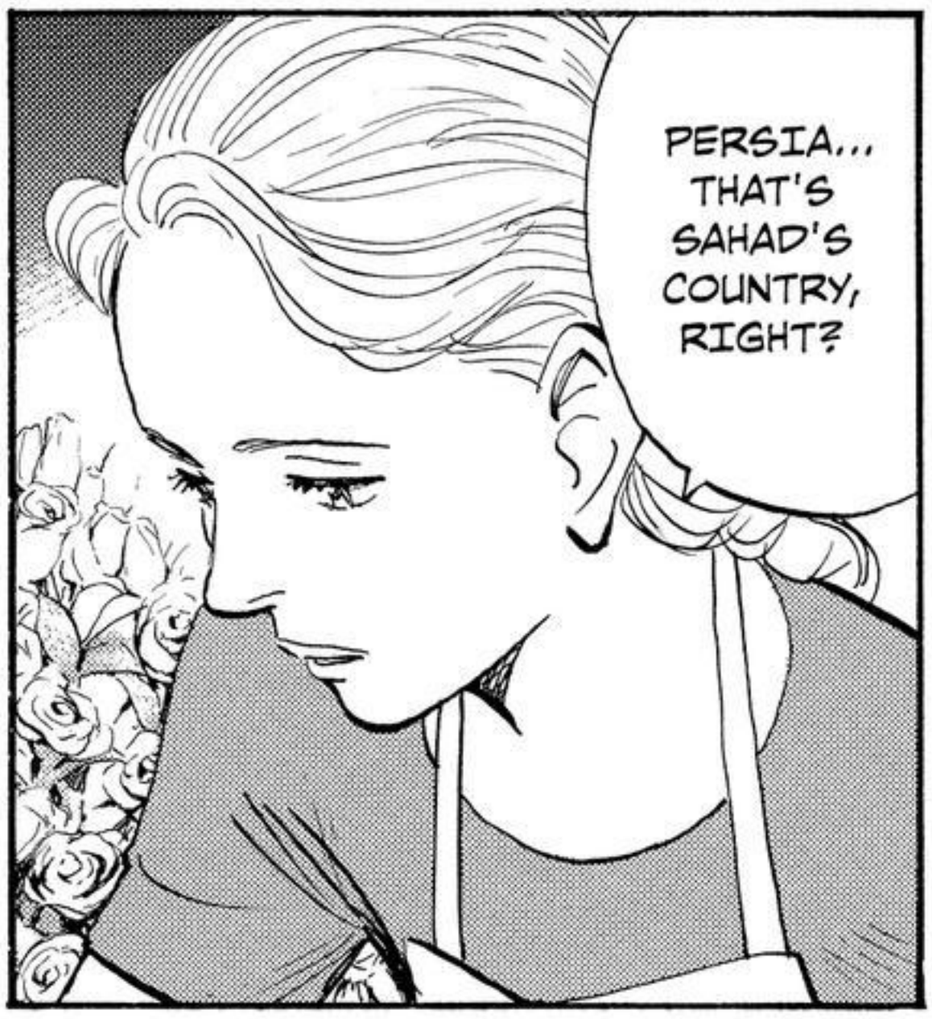
6.50

OKAY.


ANTON, TAKE THESE FLOWERS OVER TO VAN DYCK'S SHOP, WILL YOU?


HE'S A HARD WORKER, ISN'T HE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT HIM.

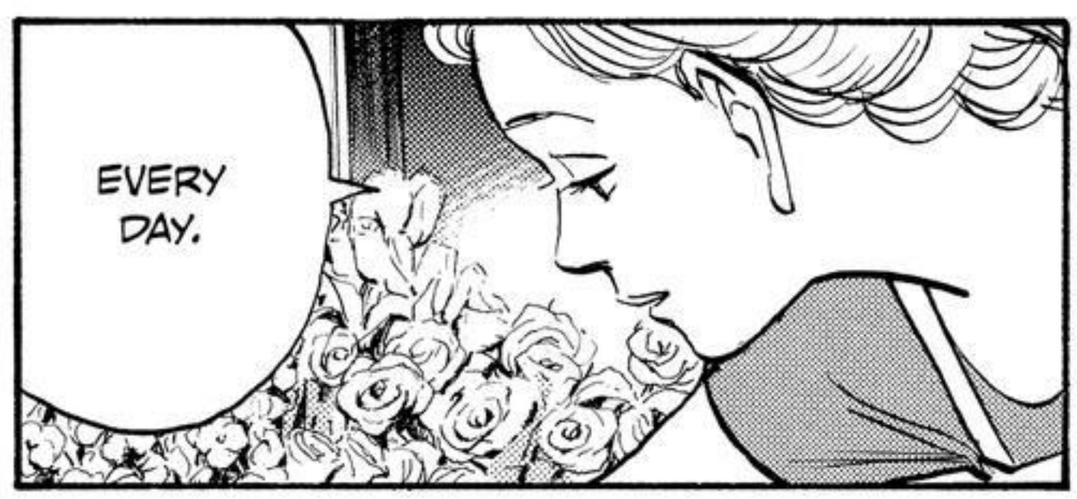


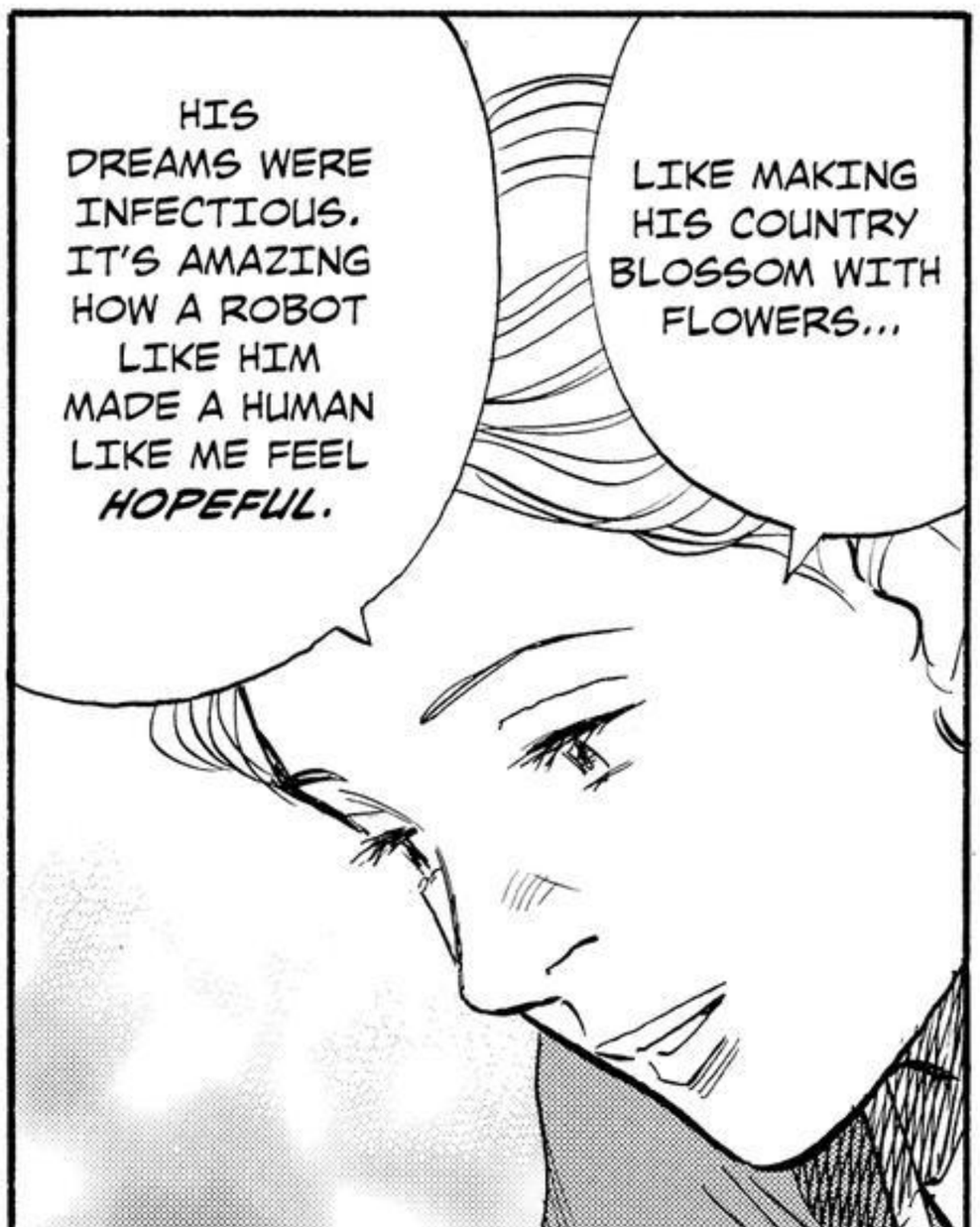

PERSIA... THAT'S SAHAD'S COUNTRY, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW, BEFORE COMING HERE, I MET A LITTLE FLOWER PEDDLER IN PERSIA...
BUT HE WASN'T THAT HAPPY A WORKER...

HE'D OFTEN HELP ME IN THE SHOP WHEN HE HAD TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL.

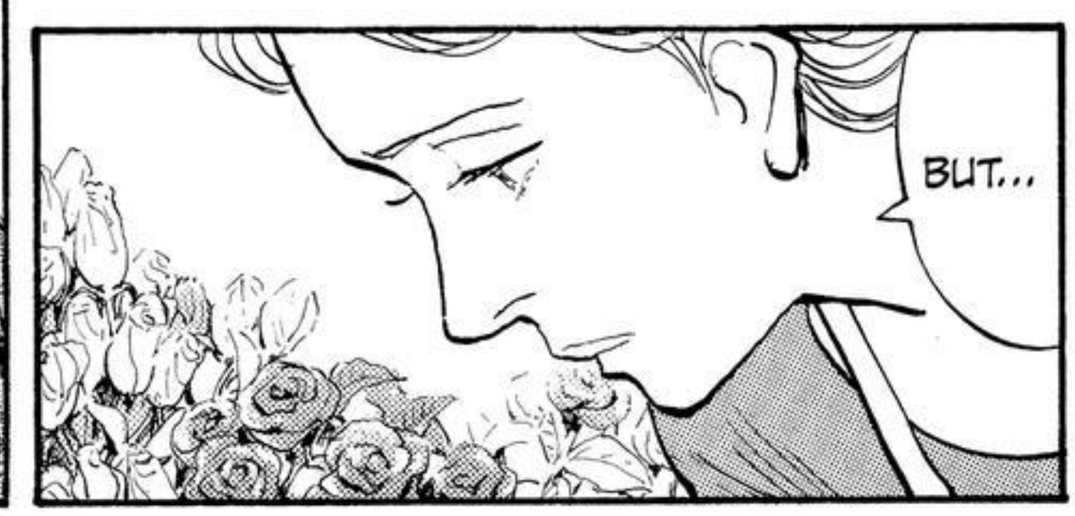
YES. DID HE COME OFTEN TO YOUR STORE?


EVERY DAY.

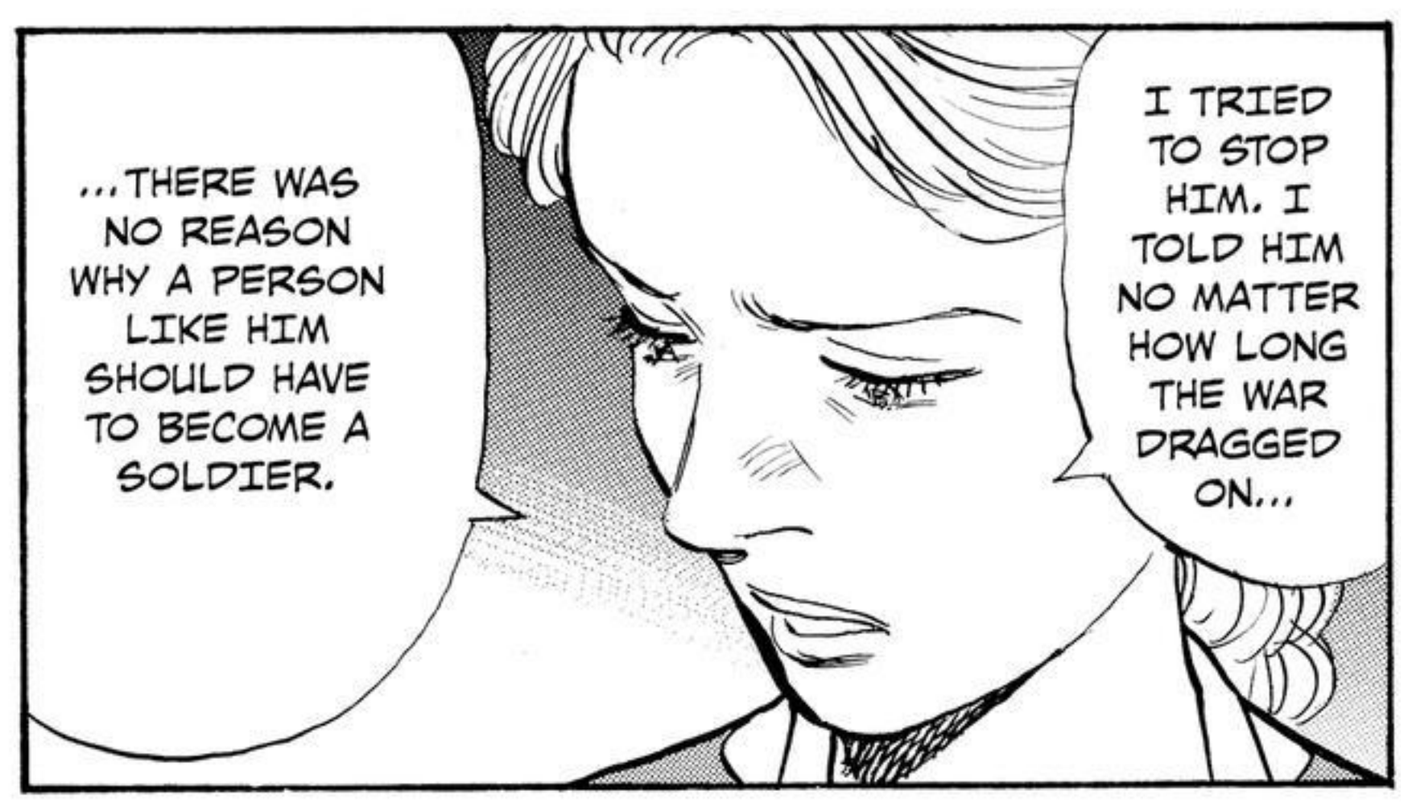

HIS DREAMS WERE INFECTIOUS. IT'S AMAZING HOW A ROBOT LIKE HIM MADE A HUMAN LIKE ME FEEL *HOPEFUL.*
LIKE MAKING HIS COUNTRY BLOSSOM WITH FLOWERS...

BUT HE ALWAYS TALKED WITH ME ABOUT ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE MANY FRIENDS.

ONE DAY HE CHANGED...


BUT...

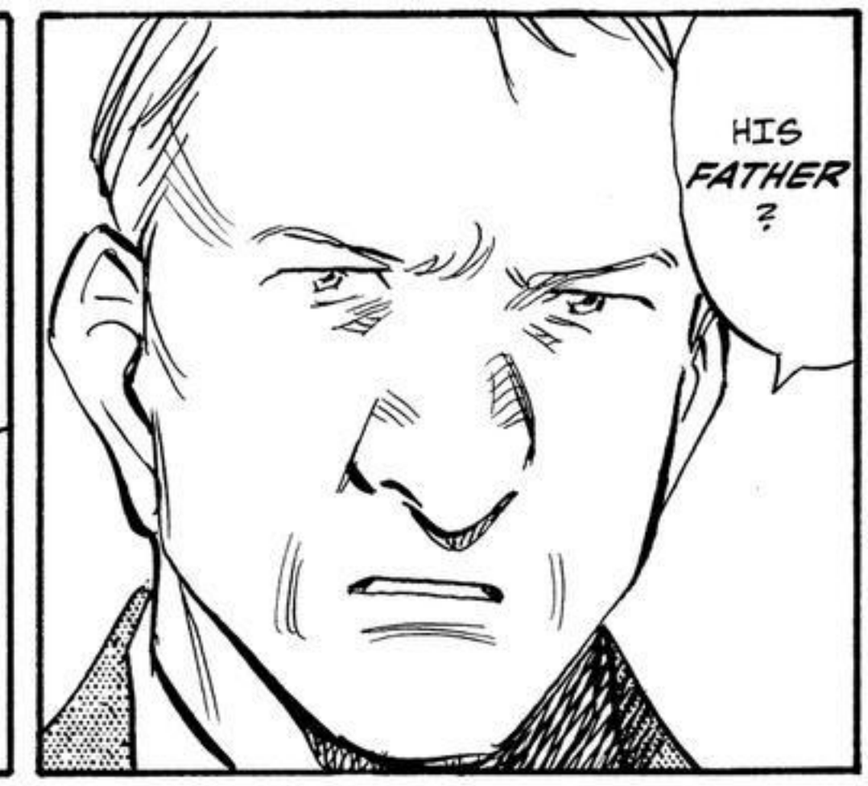
HE HAD TO GO BACK TO HIS COUNTRY ALL OF A SUDDEN...

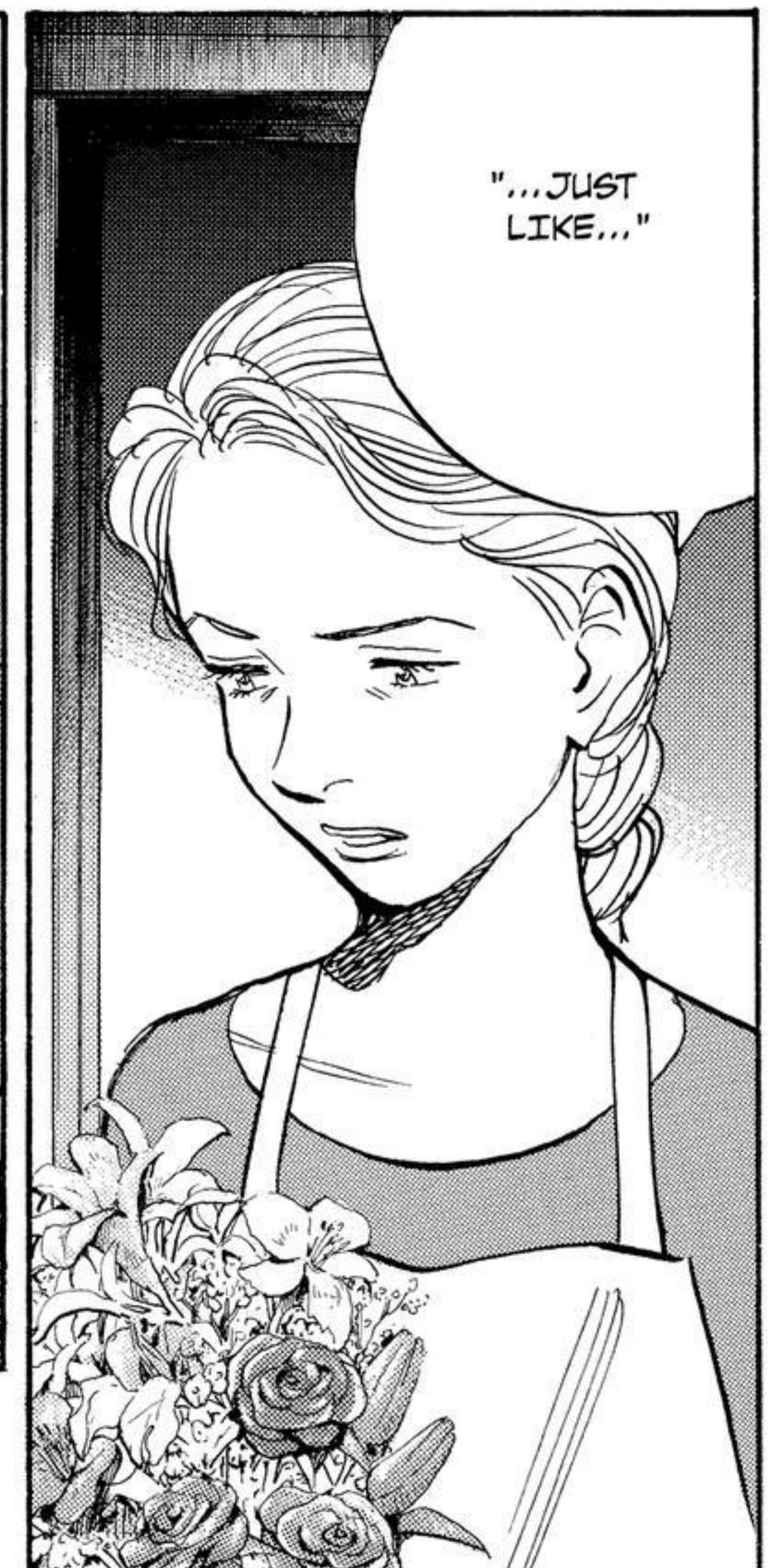

...THERE WAS NO REASON WHY A PERSON LIKE HIM SHOULD HAVE TO BECOME A SOLDIER.
I TRIED TO STOP HIM. I TOLD HIM NO MATTER HOW LONG THE WAR DRAGGED ON...

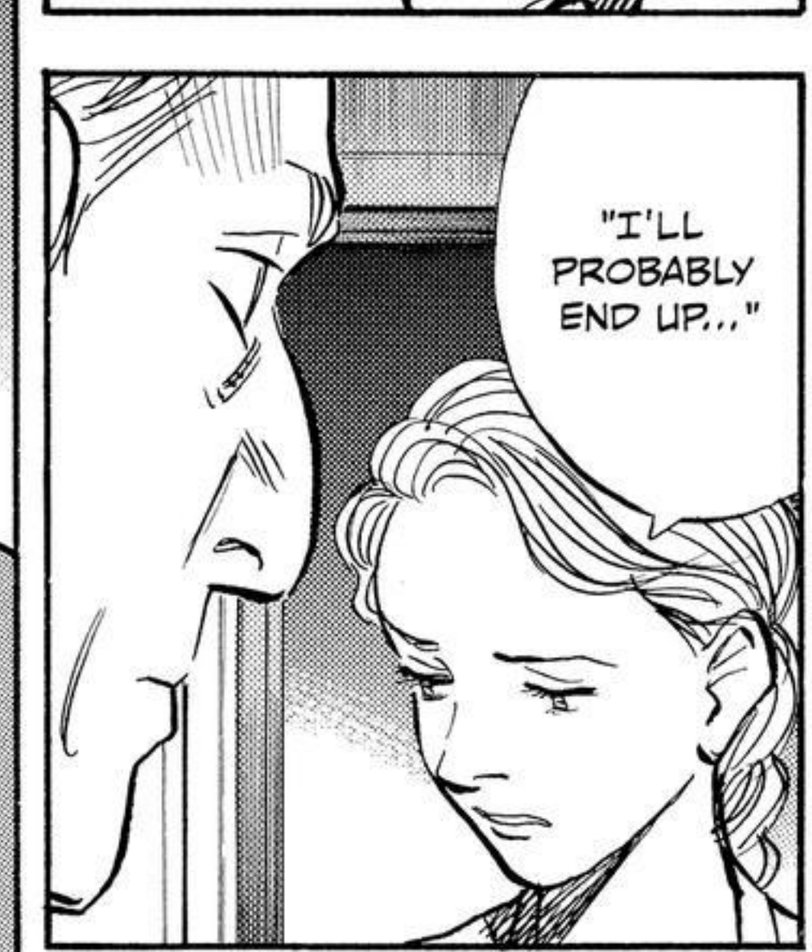
HE SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO ENLIST IN THE ARMY.

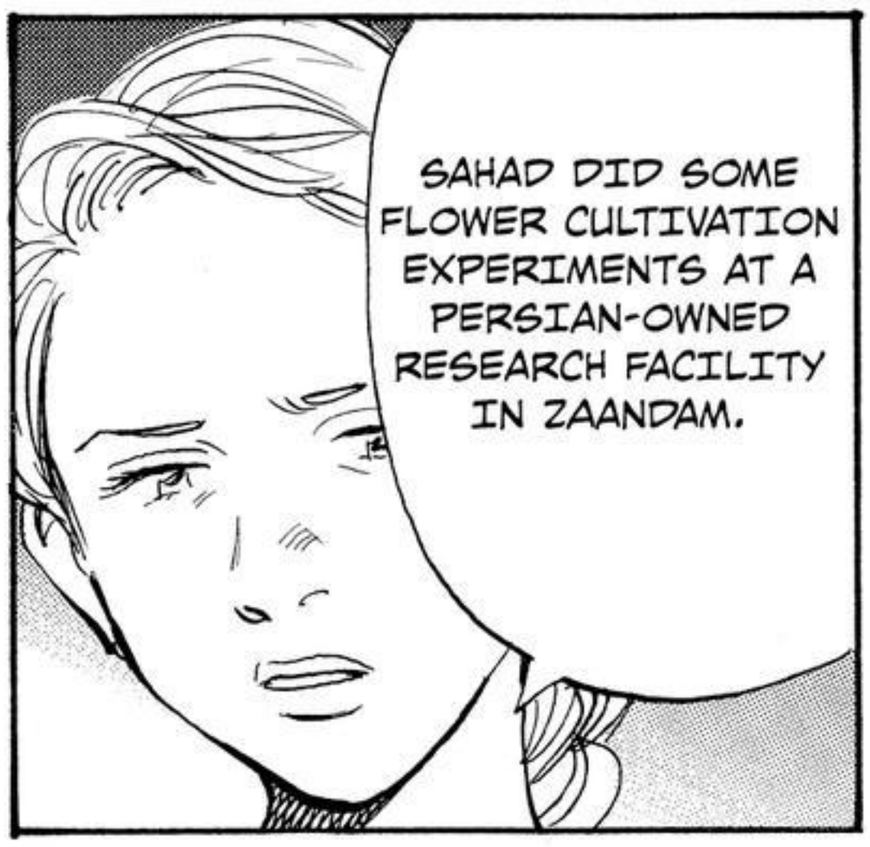
THEN HE TOLD ME...

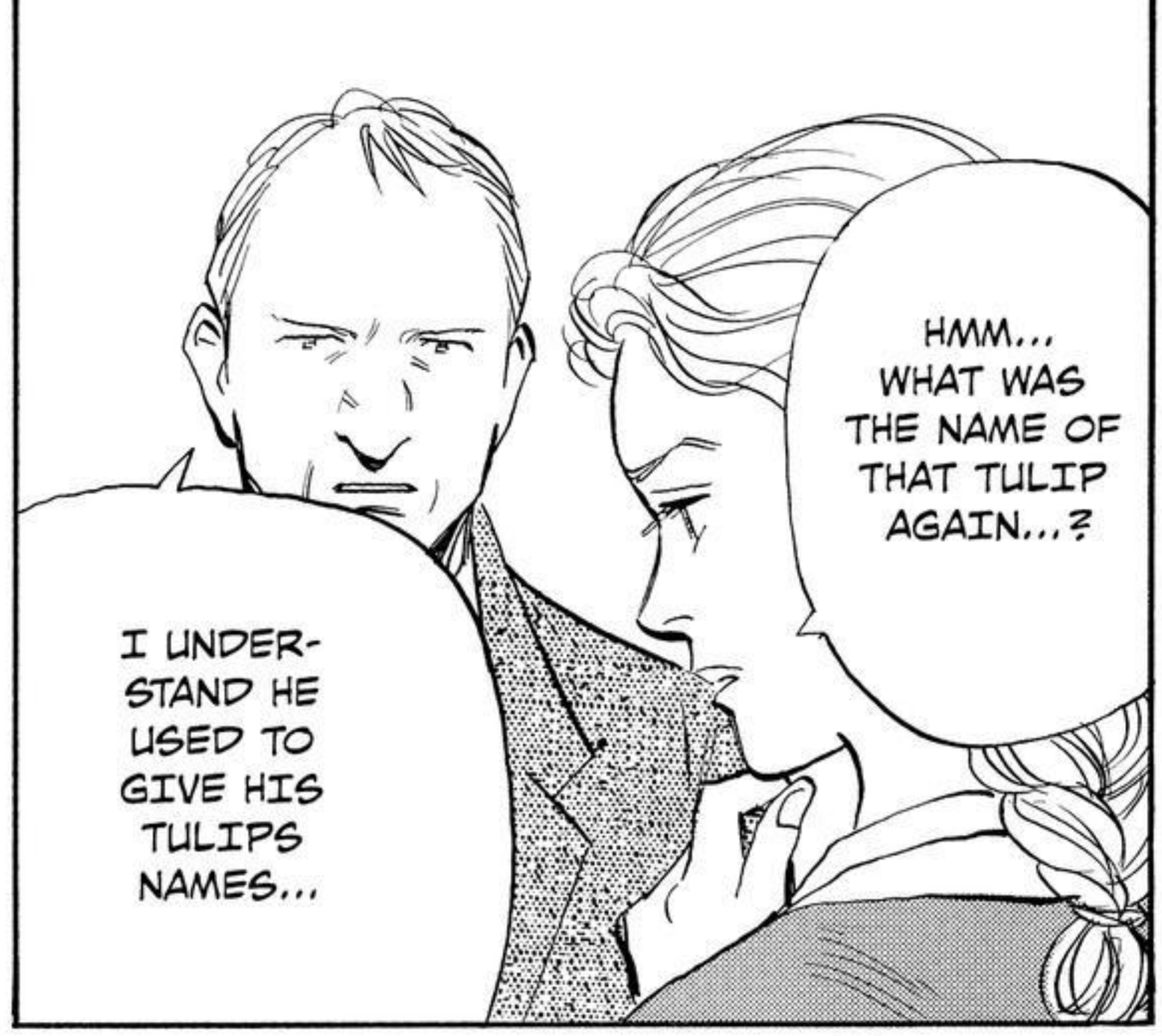
HE TOLD ME THAT HIS FATHER HAD DIED IN THE WAR...

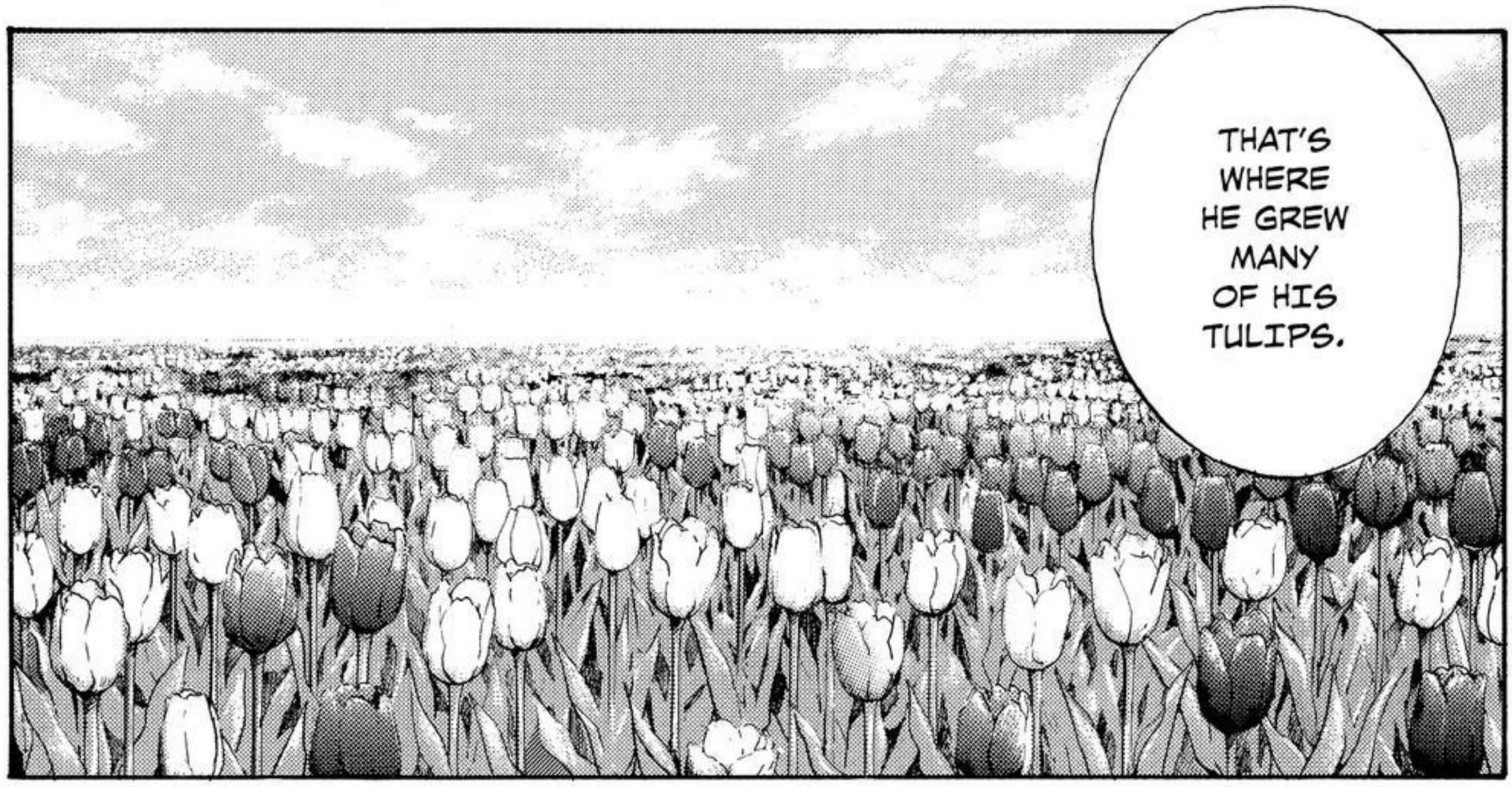


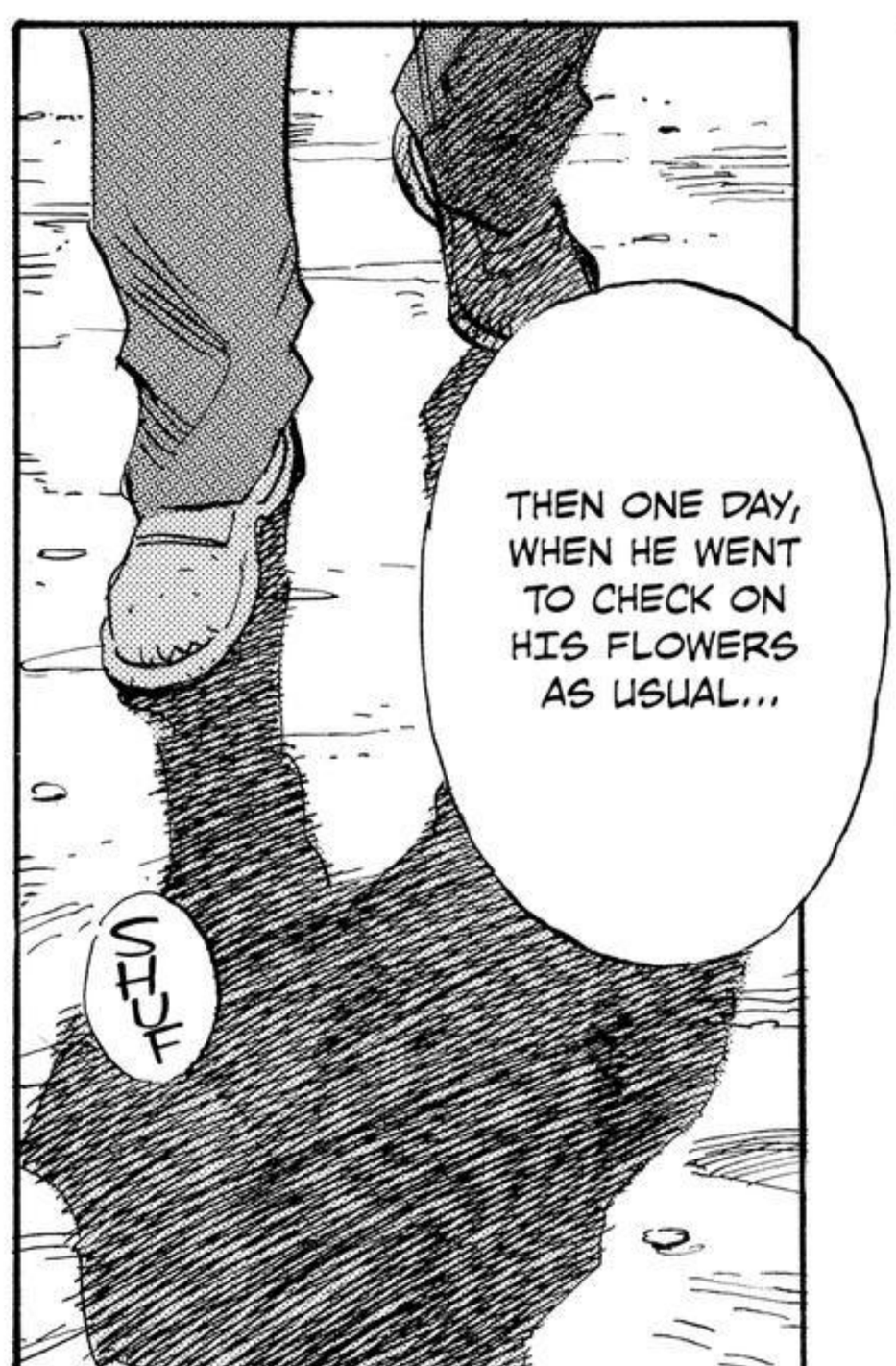


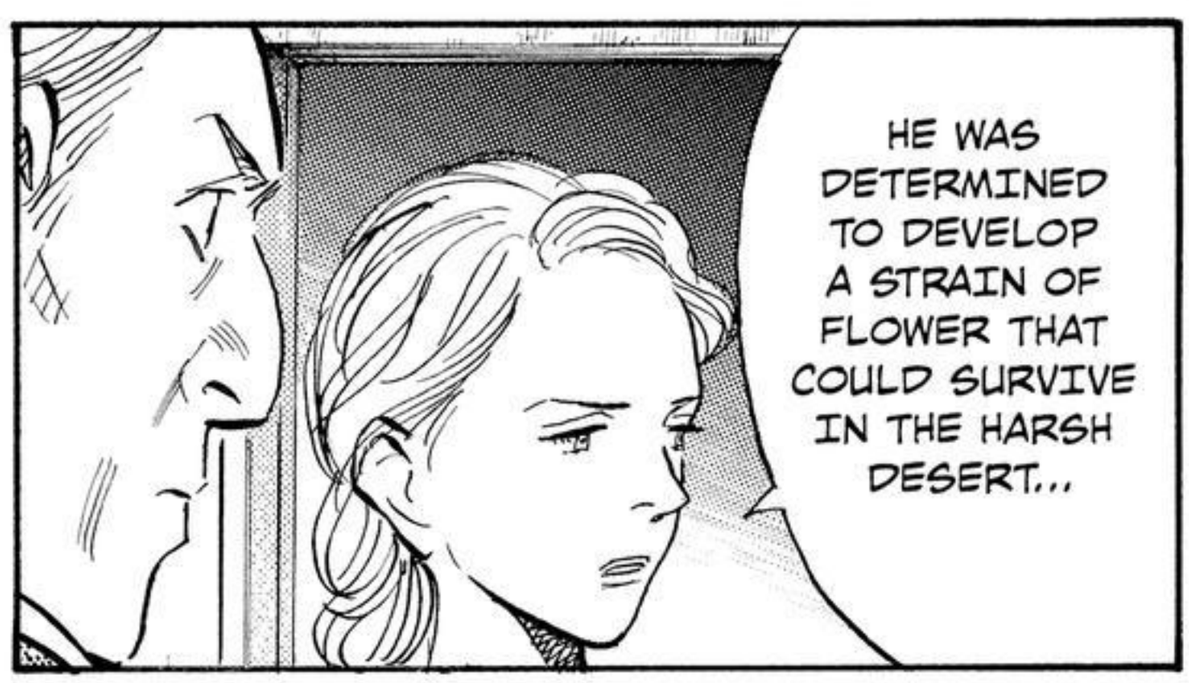



SAHAD DID SOME FLOWER CULTIVATION EXPERIMENTS AT A PERSIAN-OWNED RESEARCH FACILITY IN ZAANDAM.

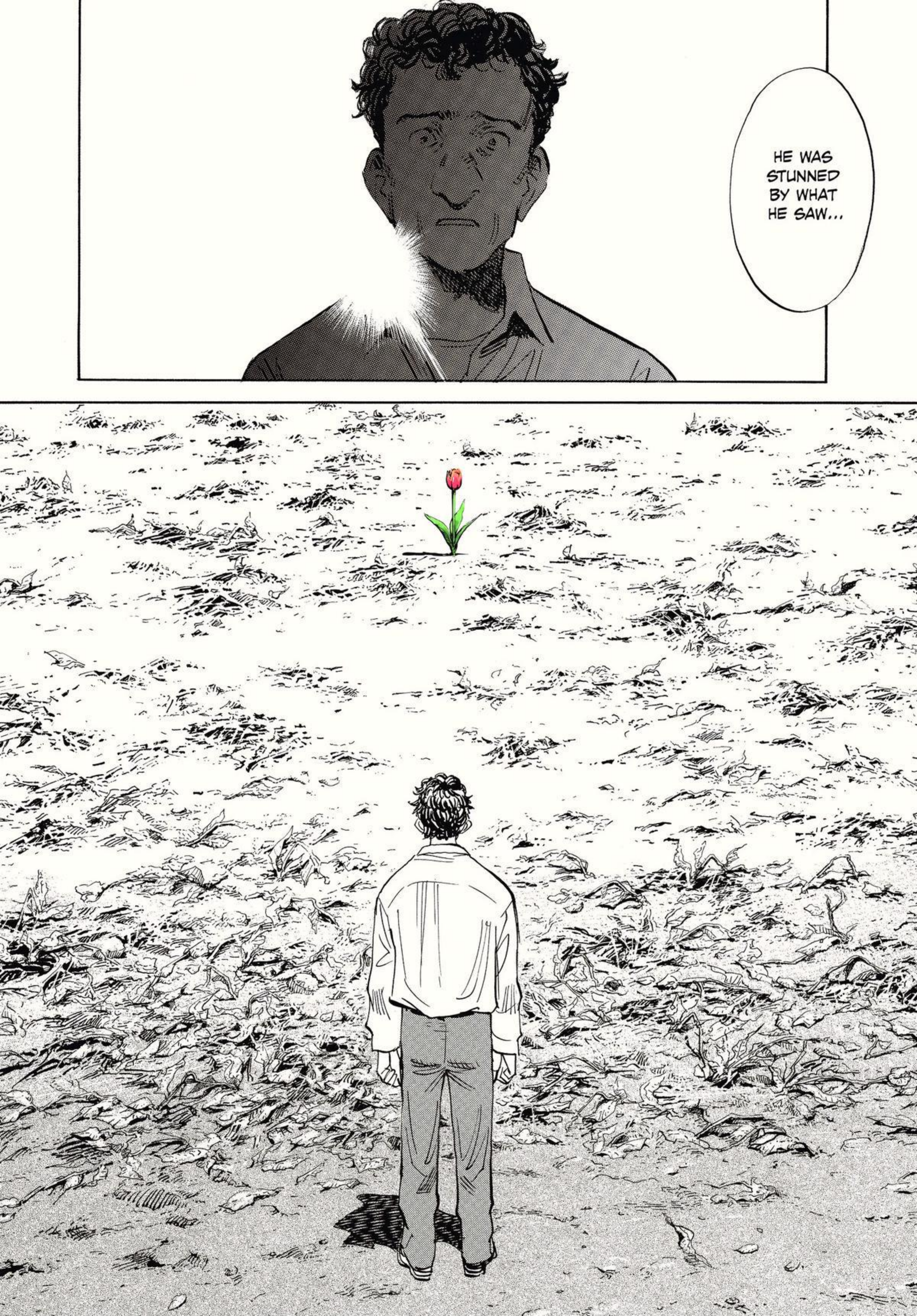

I UNDER-STAND HE USED TO GIVE HIS TULIPS NAMES...
HMM... WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT TULIP AGAIN...?


THAT'S WHERE HE GREW MANY OF HIS TULIPS.

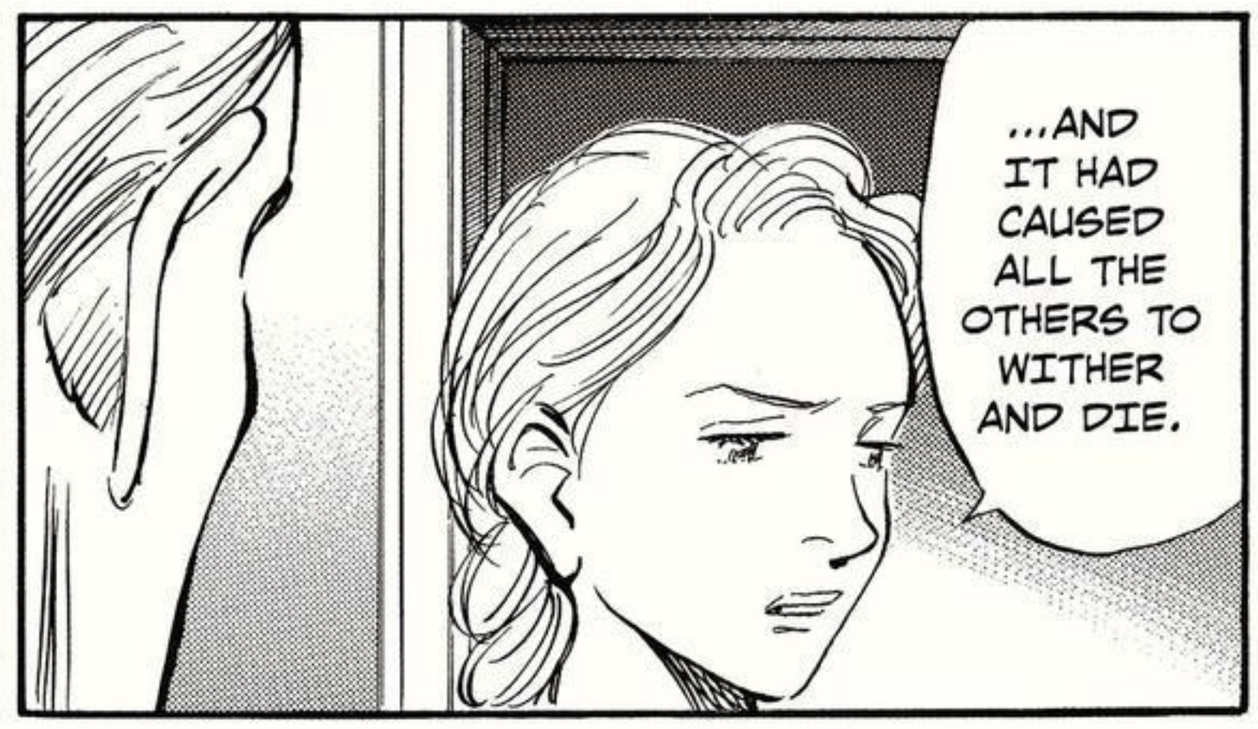

THEN ONE DAY, WHEN HE WENT TO CHECK ON HIS FLOWERS AS USUAL...
SHUT

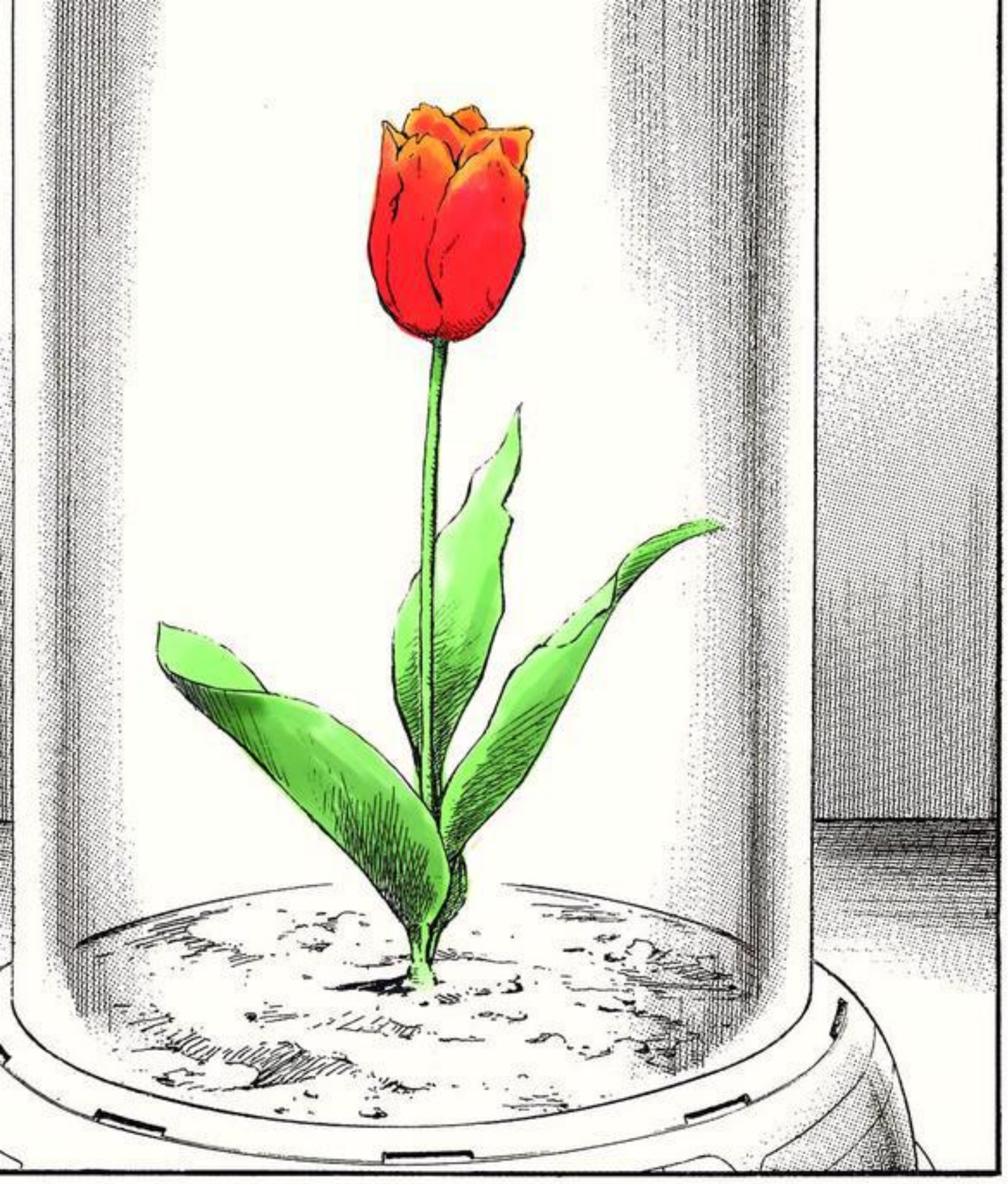

HE WAS DETERMINED TO DEVELOP A STRAIN OF FLOWER THAT COULD SURVIVE IN THE HARSH DESERT...

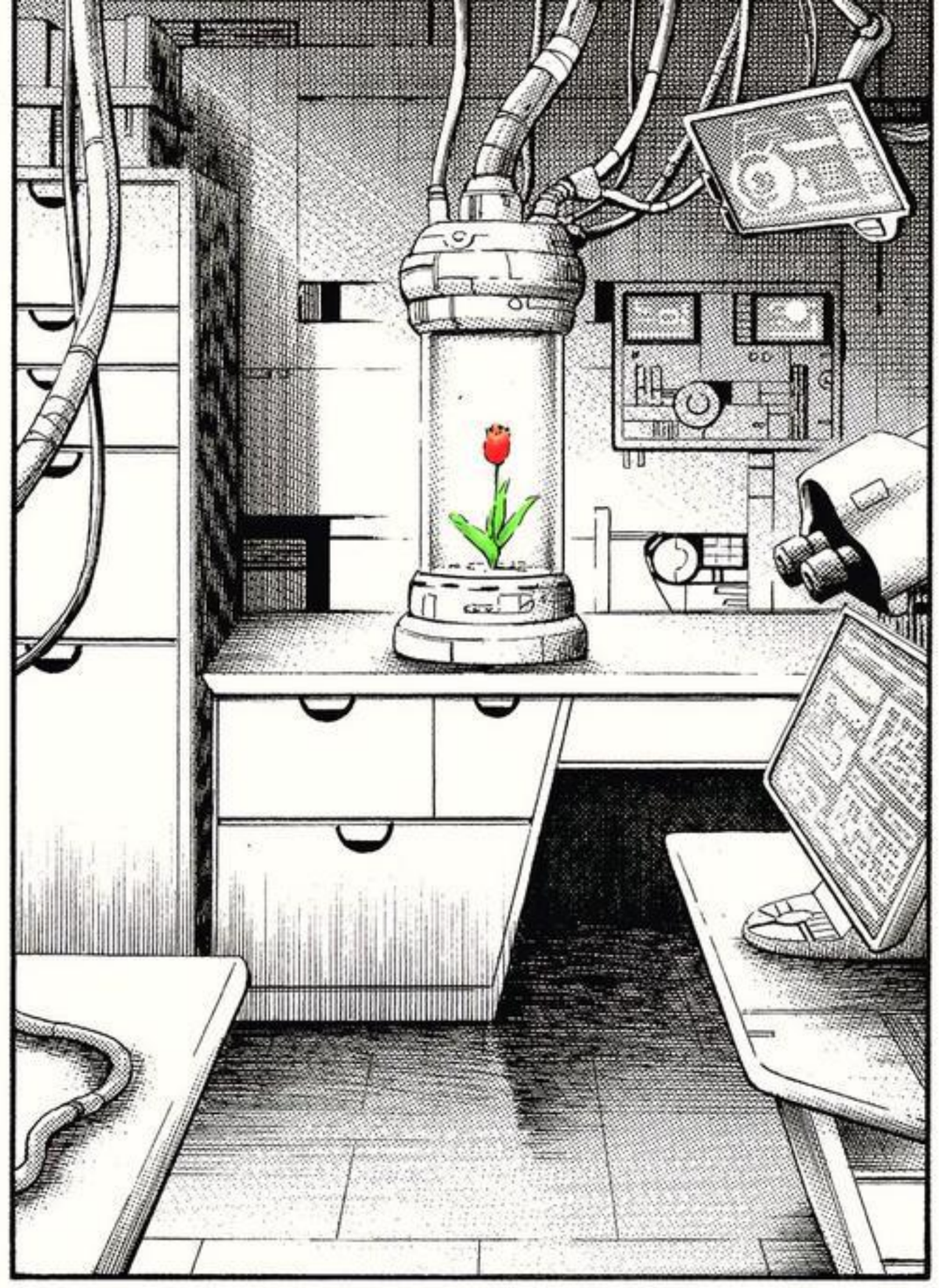
HE KEPT TRYING TO MAKE AN EVER MORE RESILIENT FLOWER...


HE WAS STUNNED BY WHAT HE SAW...

THERE WAS JUST ONE TULIP LEFT STANDING...



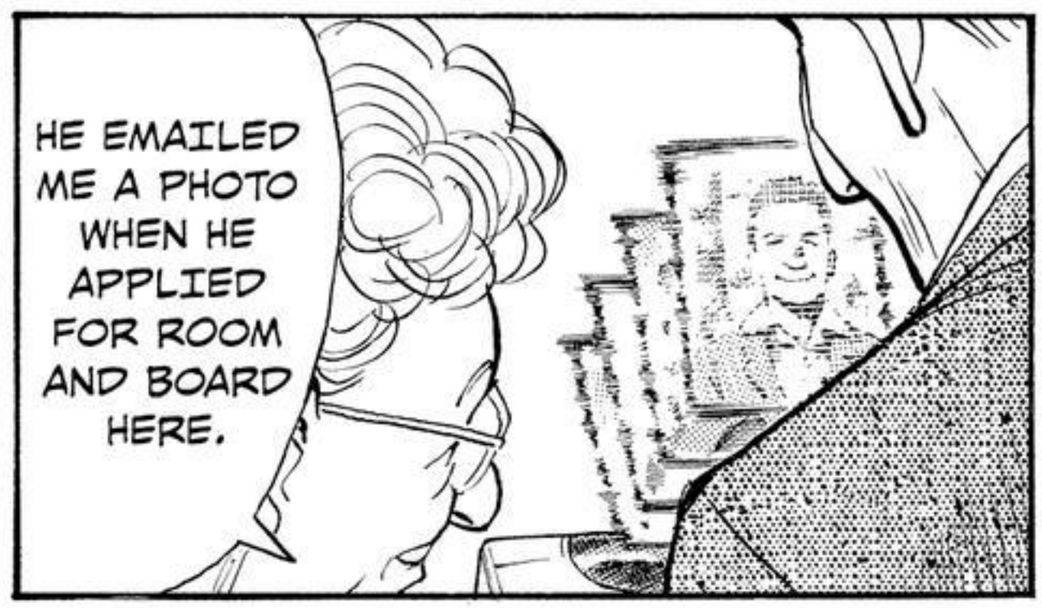




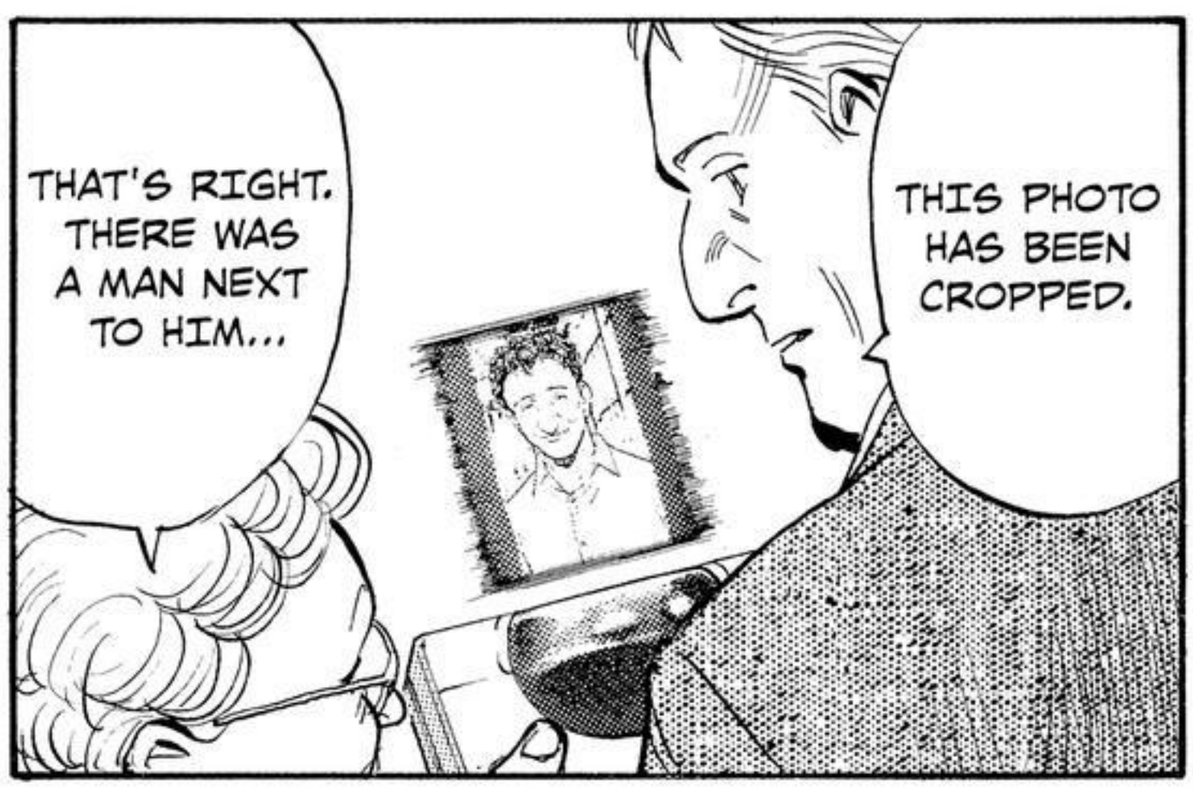
SAHAD'S PHOTO.
HERE YOU ARE. I FOUND IT FOR YOU.

OH, RIGHT.
LIKE SO.
BZZZ

OH, IT'S NO PROBLEM... DEAR ME... I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO OPERATE THIS THING...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MA'AM.


HE EMAILED ME A PHOTO WHEN HE APPLIED FOR ROOM AND BOARD HERE.

HERE IT IS!

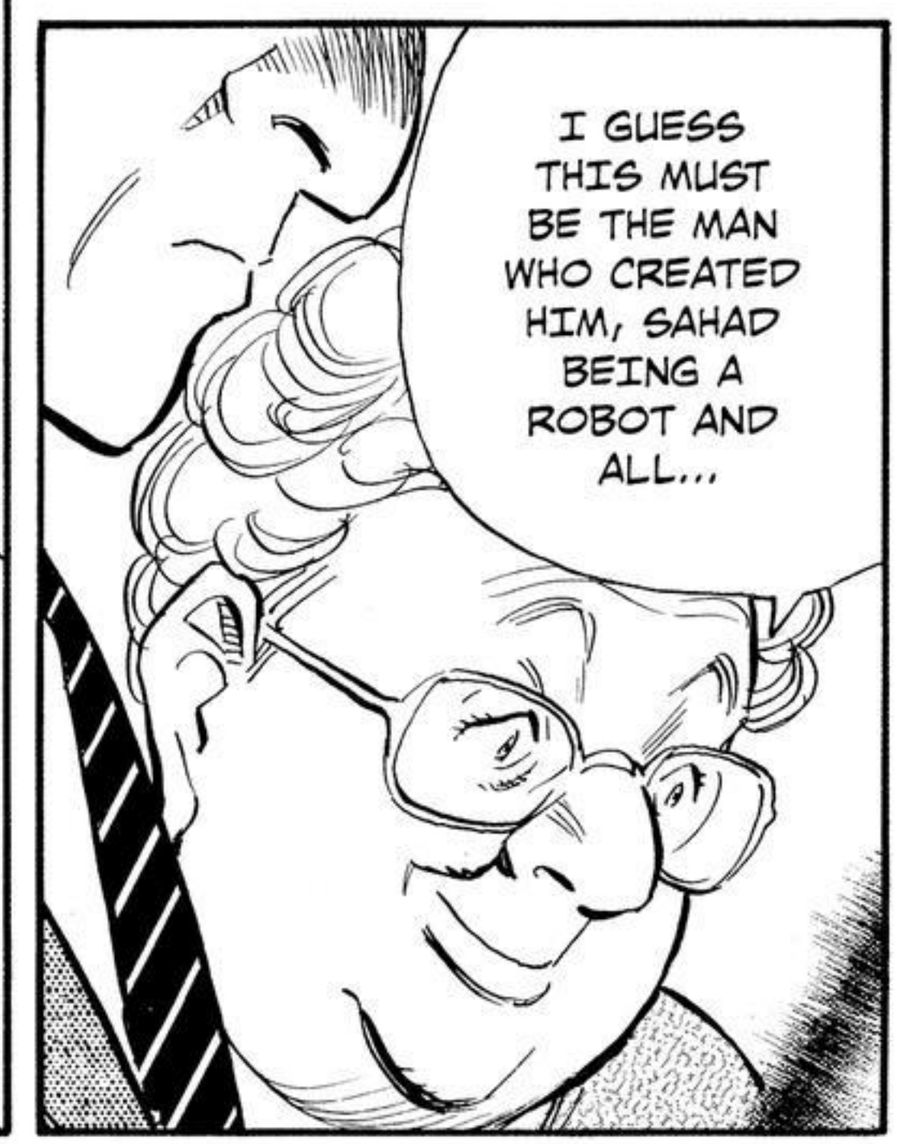

THAT'S RIGHT. THERE WAS A MAN NEXT TO HIM...
THIS PHOTO HAS BEEN CROPPED.

SUCH A SWEET, SMILING FACE.

HIS *FATHER*?
ZWP—

ZWP—

I THINK THAT'S HIS FATHER STANDING NEXT TO HIM.



THIS IS PROFESSOR ABULLAH!!

SAHAD'S FATHER...

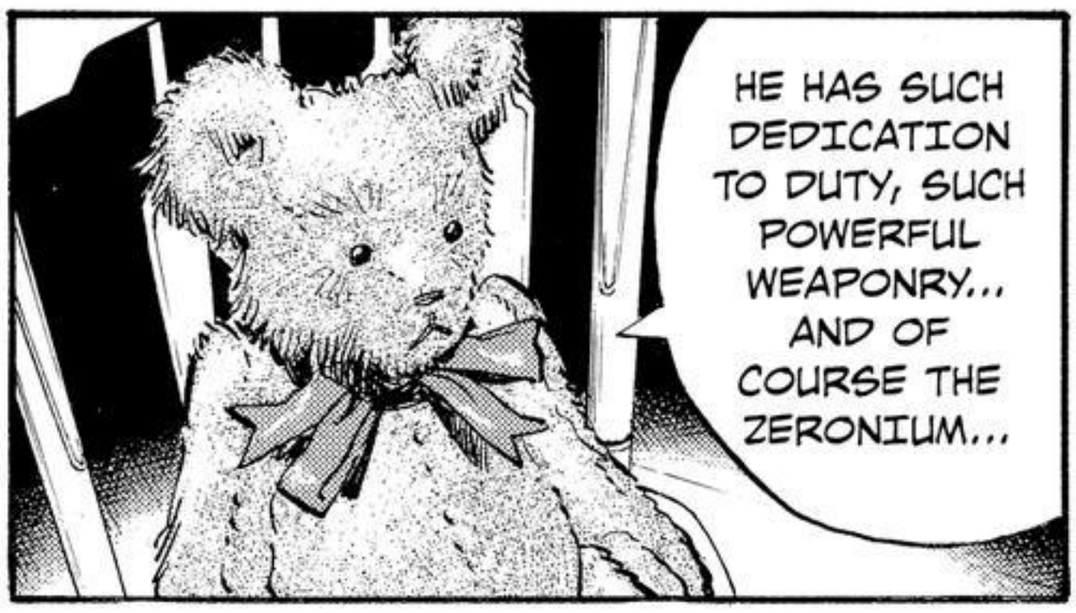
...IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE *DIED*?

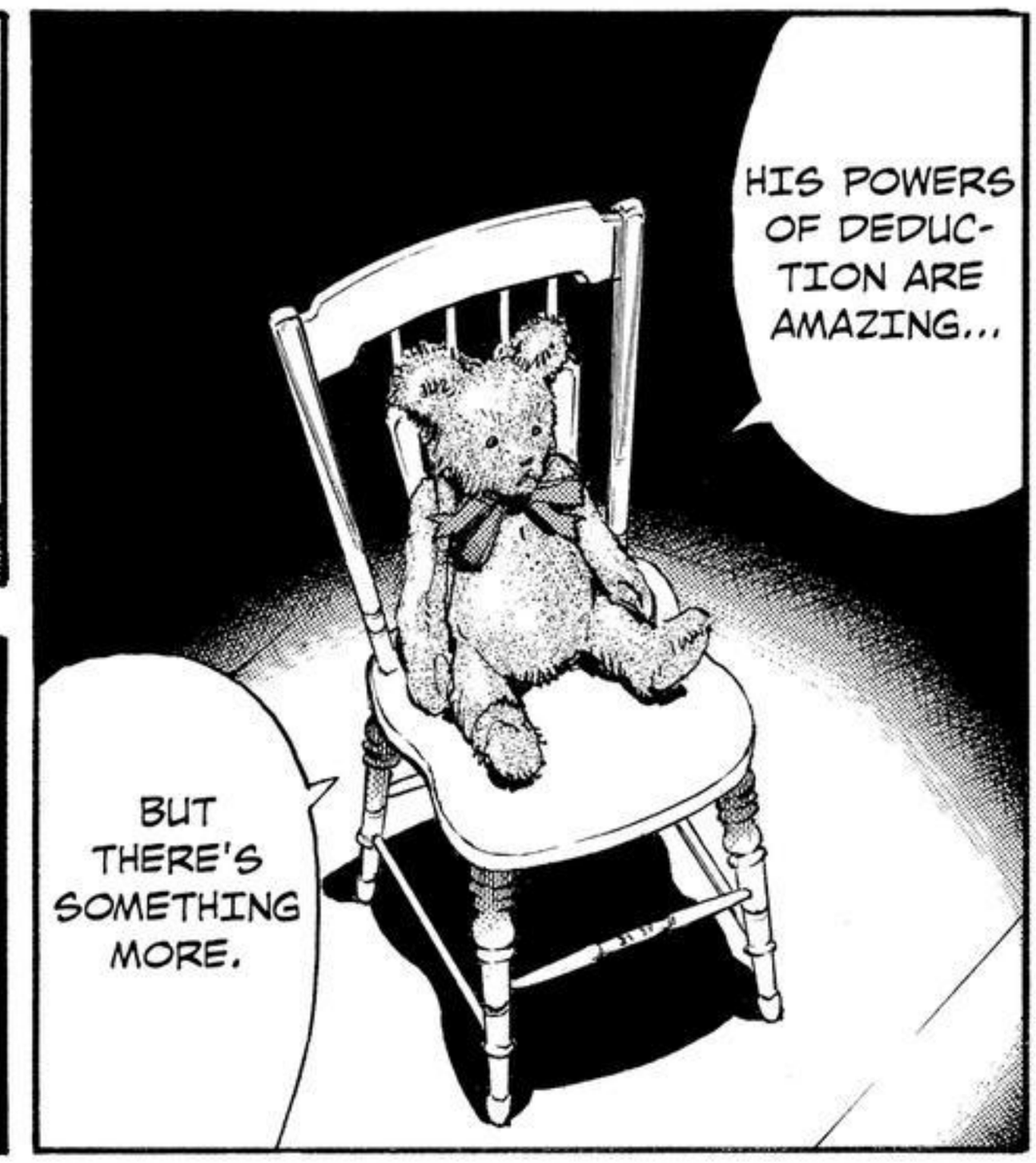
GESICHT...

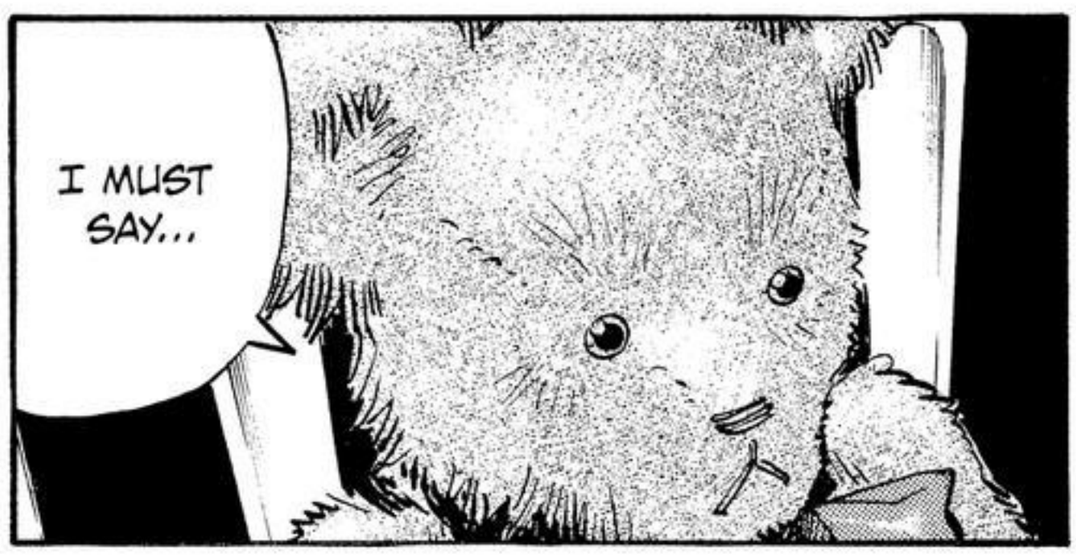
...IS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER.

DON'T YOU AGREE?

I MUST SAY, I'M VERY IMPRESSED.







GESICHT IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO DATE.

SERIOUSLY.

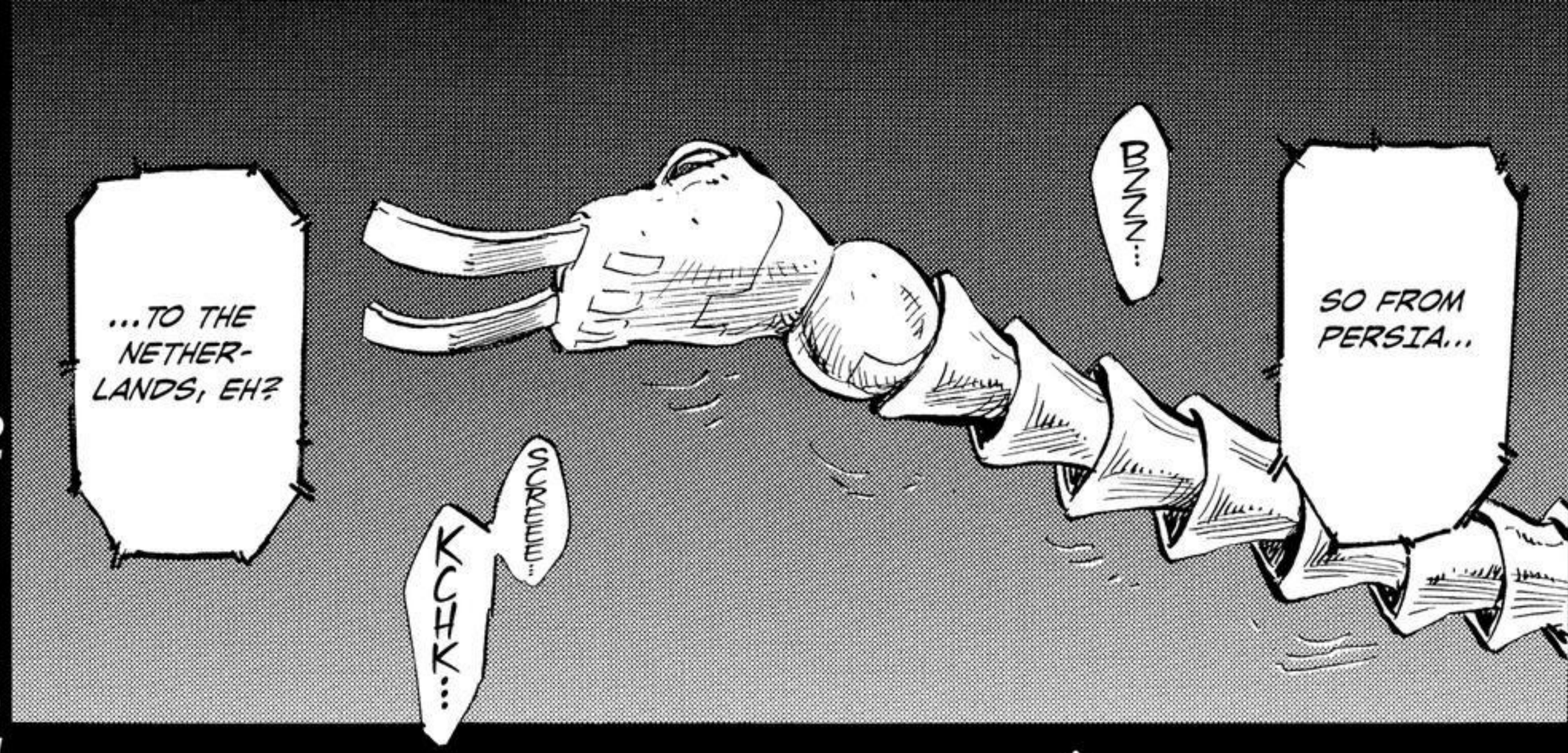
EVEN PLUTO MAY LOSE TO HIM.

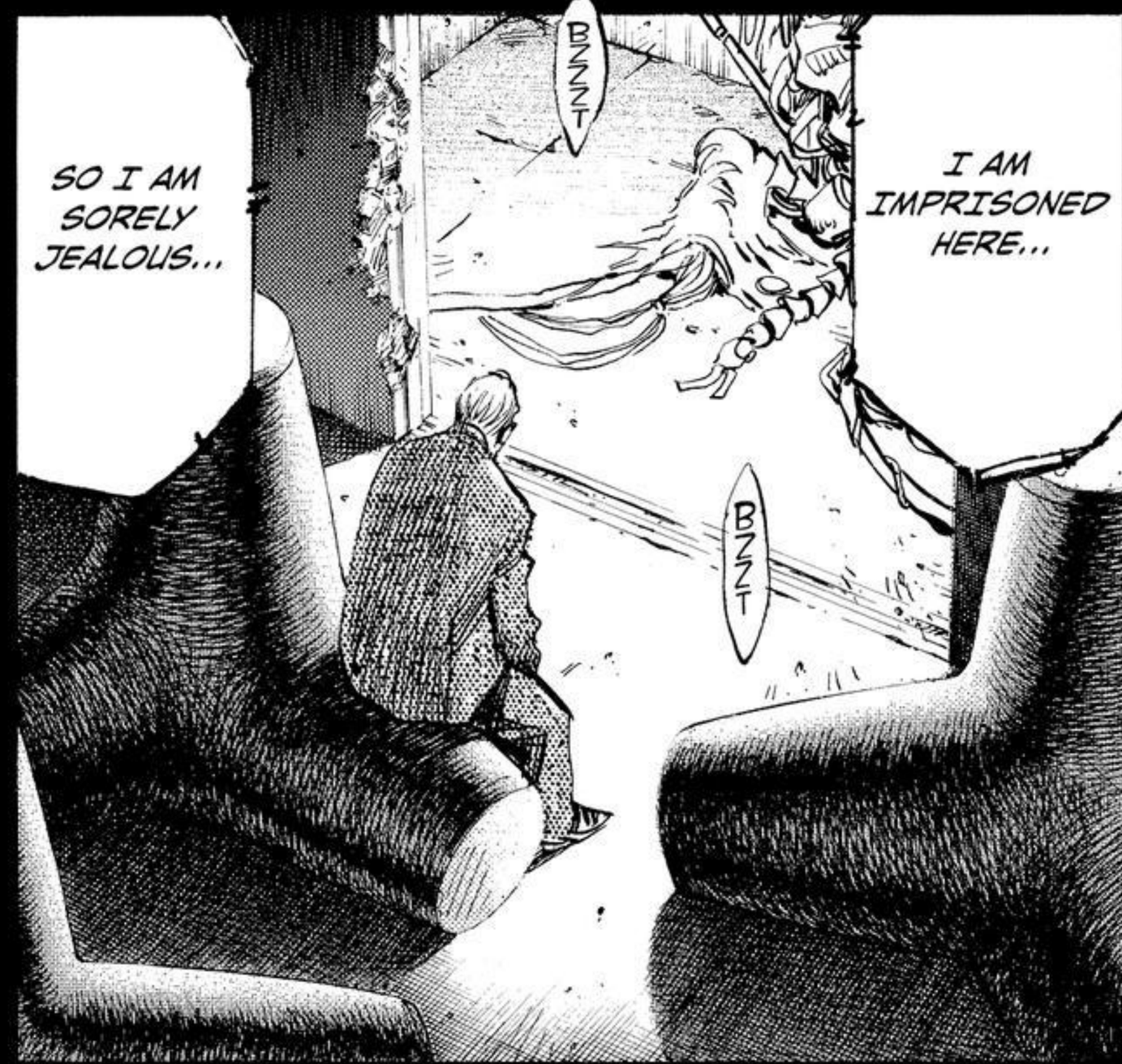
THERE IS ONE SURE WAY OF KILLING HIM.

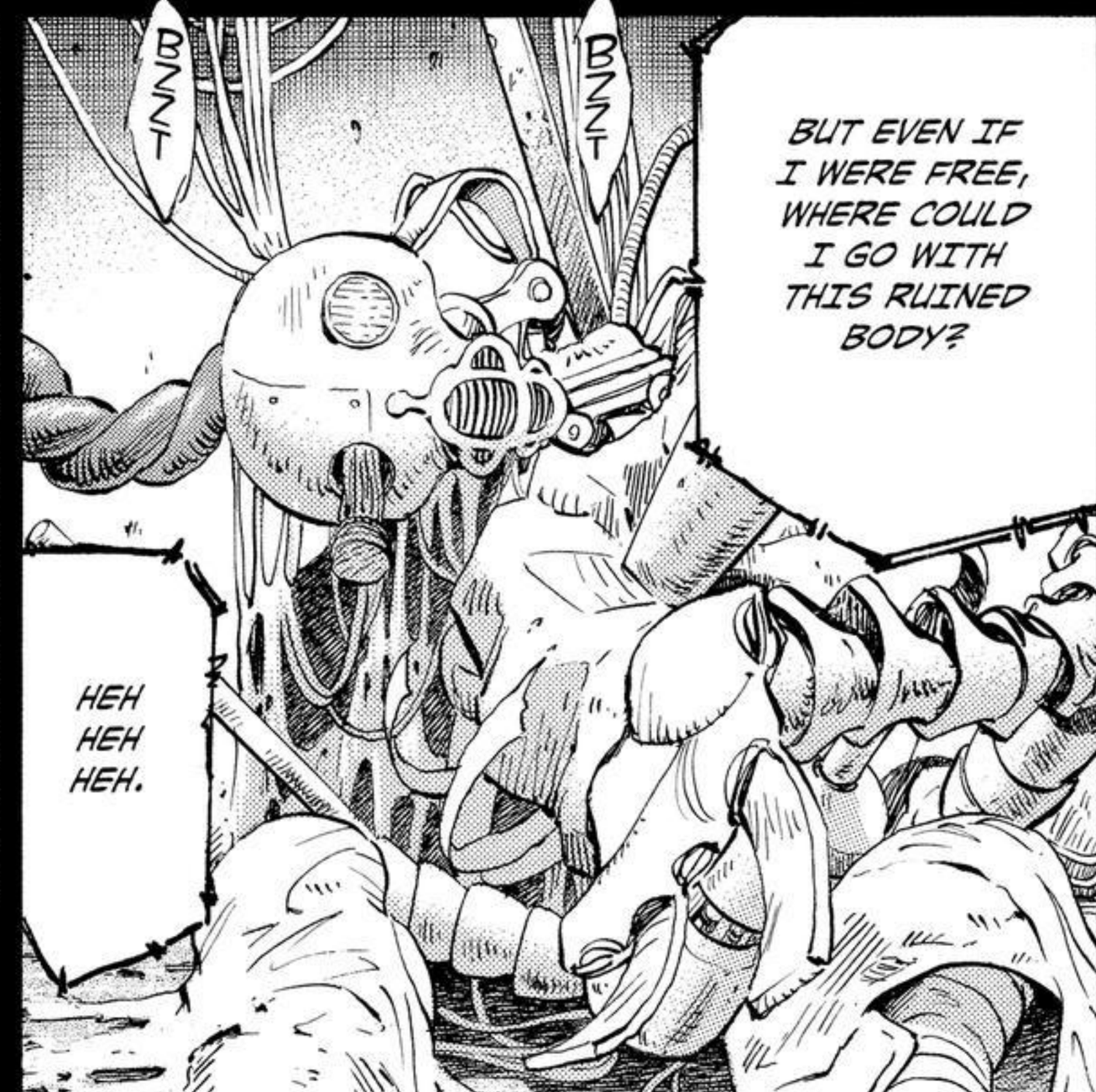
BUT THEN AGAIN...

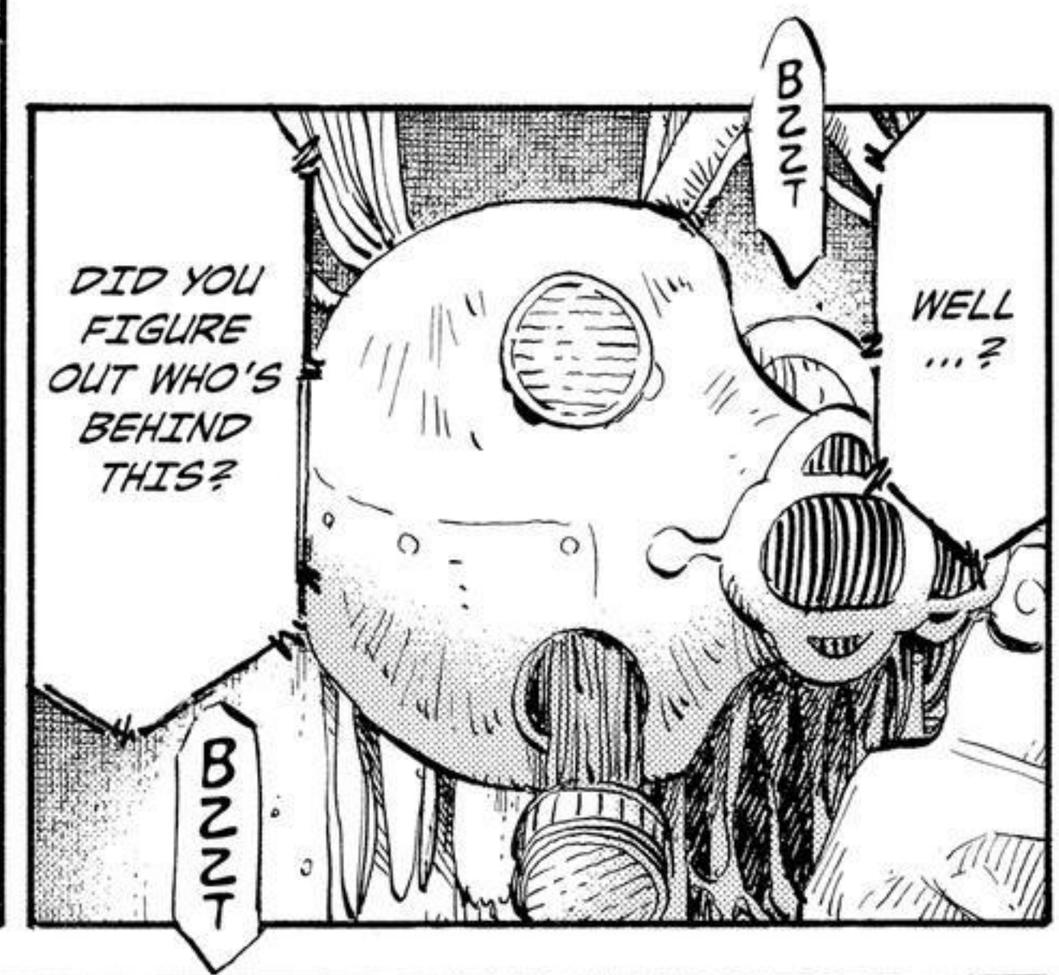
HERE'S WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE...

SHALL I TELL YOU?


...TO THE NETHER-LANDS, EH?
KCHK...
SCREEEE...
BZZZZ...
SO FROM PERSIA...


SO I AM SORELY JEALOUS...
BZZZT
BZZZT
I AM IMPRISONED HERE...


BZZZT
BZZZT
BUT EVEN IF I WERE FREE, WHERE COULD I GO WITH THIS RUINED BODY?
HEH HEH HEH.



PROFESSOR ABULLAH...

Act 42

A HOME IN HADES

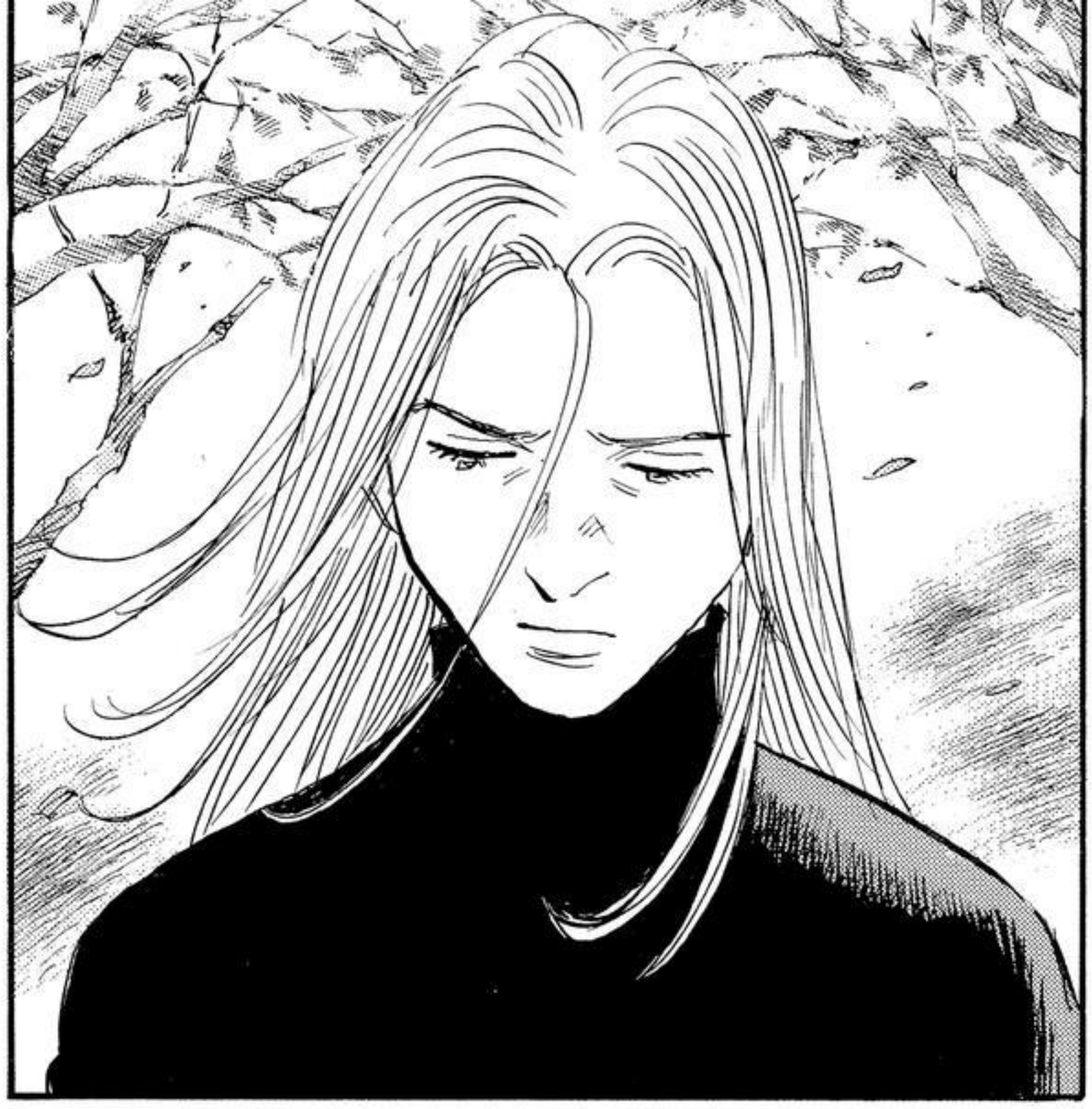
AUSTRALIA

HE WAS TRULY A GREAT SCIENTIST...

MAY DR. RONALD NEWTON-HOWARD REST IN PEACE.

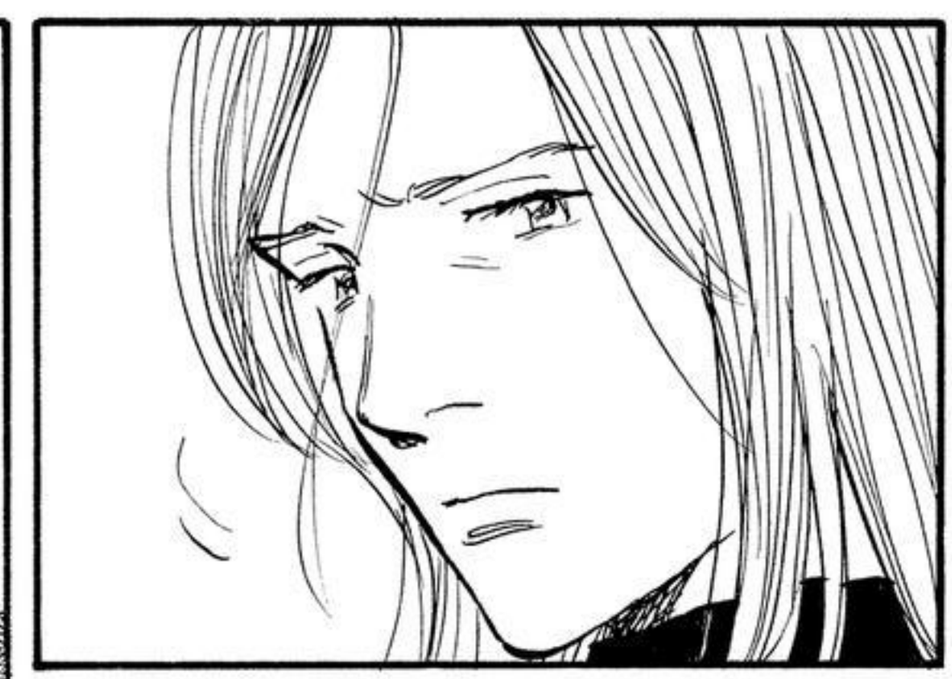
RONALD NEWTON HOWARD

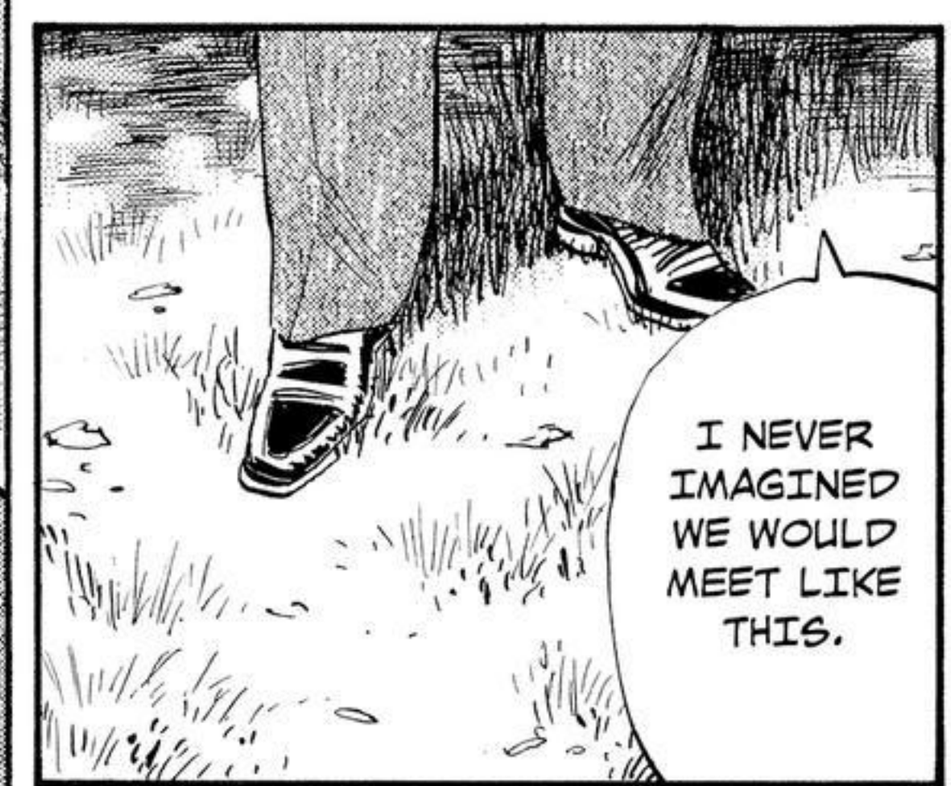
HIS DISCOVERY OF PHOTON ENERGY, LIKE A RAY FROM GOD, HAS BRIGHTENED OUR PATH TO THE FUTURE.

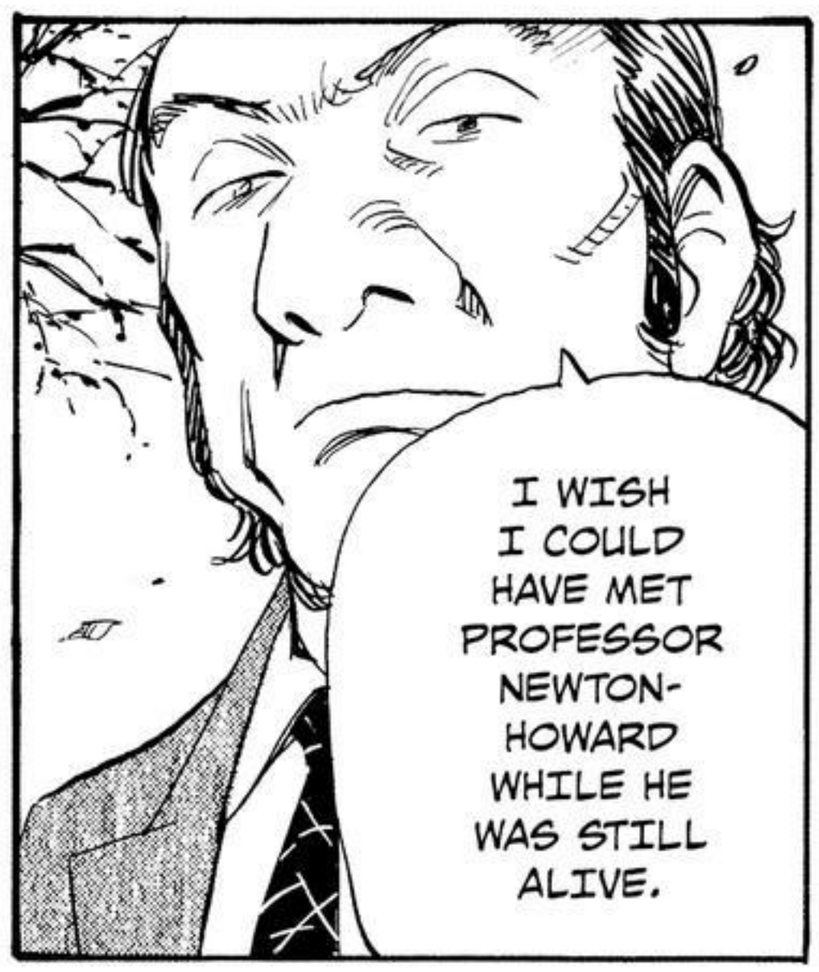


YOU'RE *EPSILON*, I PRESUME...

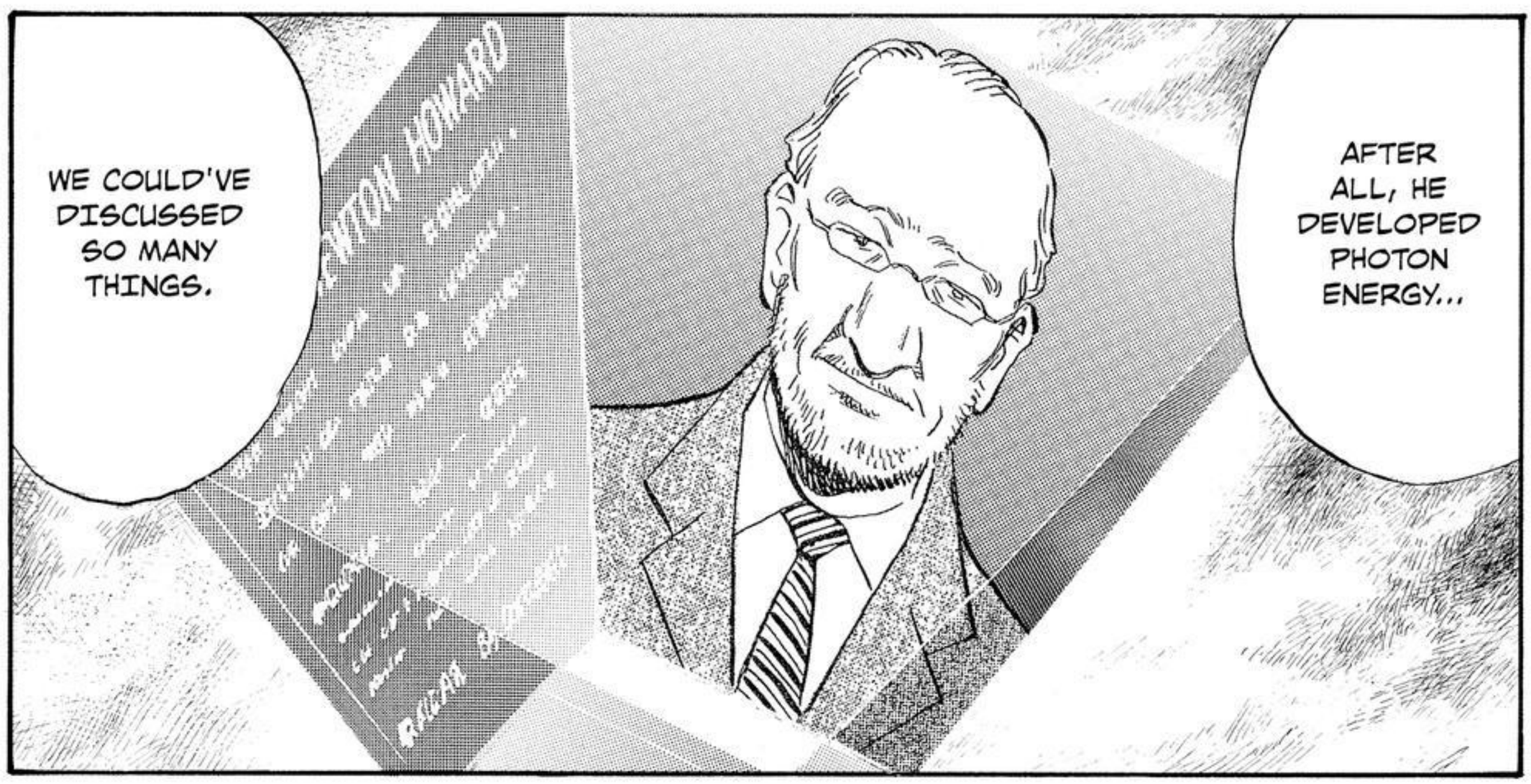
MY NAME'S ABULLAH...



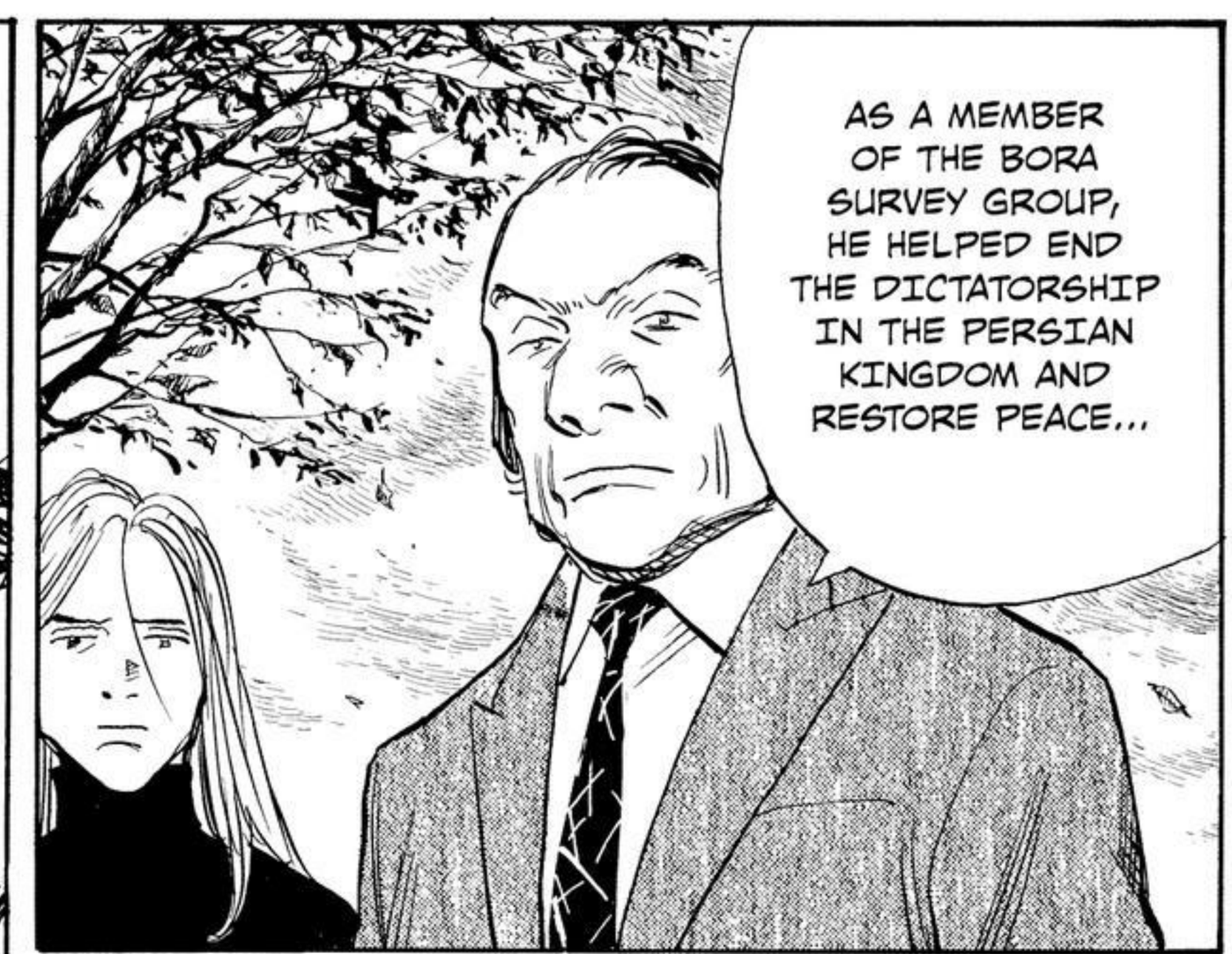

I NEVER IMAGINED WE WOULD MEET LIKE THIS.

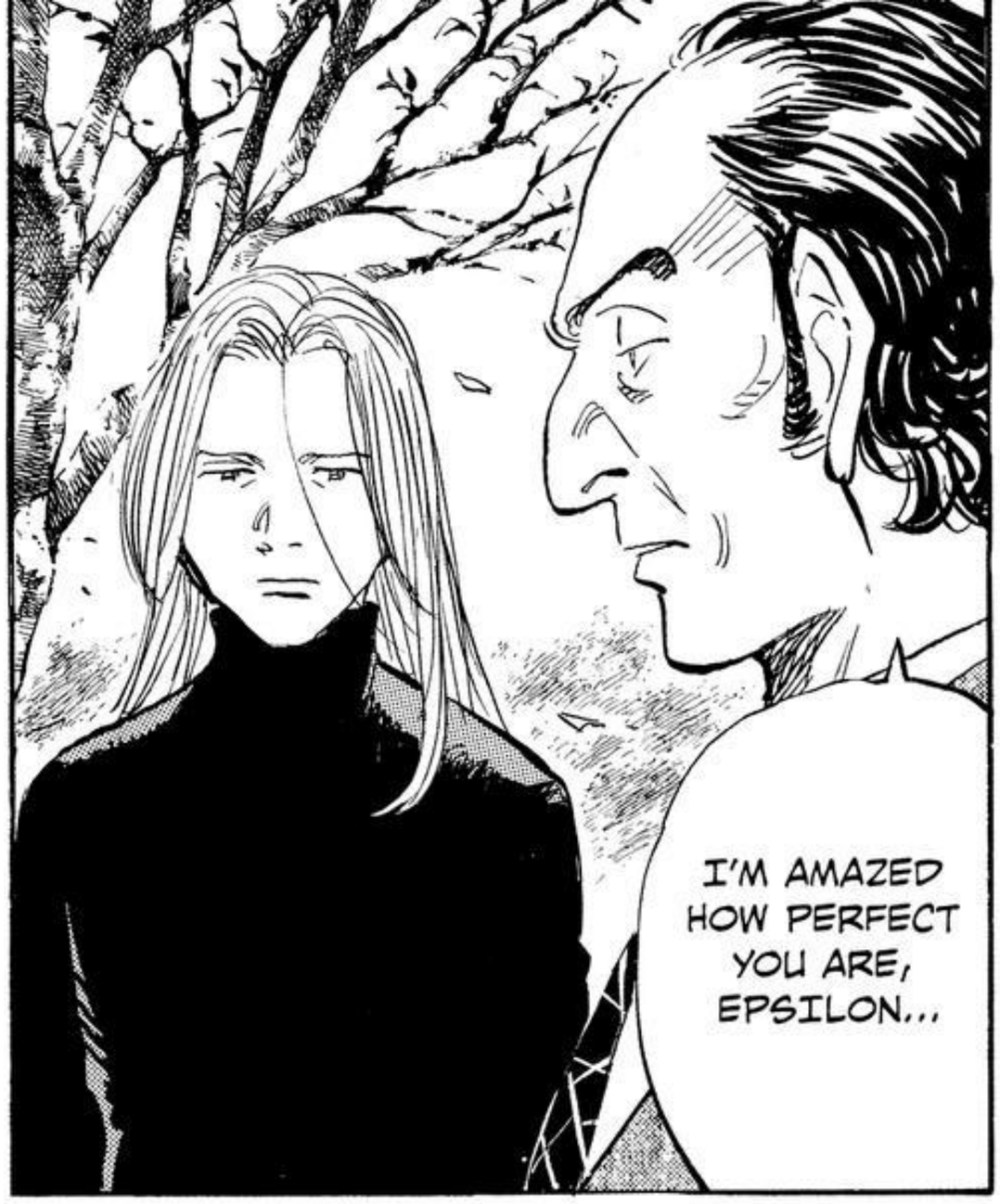

I WISH I COULD HAVE MET PROFESSOR NEWTON-HOWARD WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

IT'S... SUCH A SAD DAY...
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF PERSIA FOR THE FUNERAL?


WE COULD'VE DISCUSSED SO MANY THINGS.
AFTER ALL, HE DEVELOPED PHOTON ENERGY...

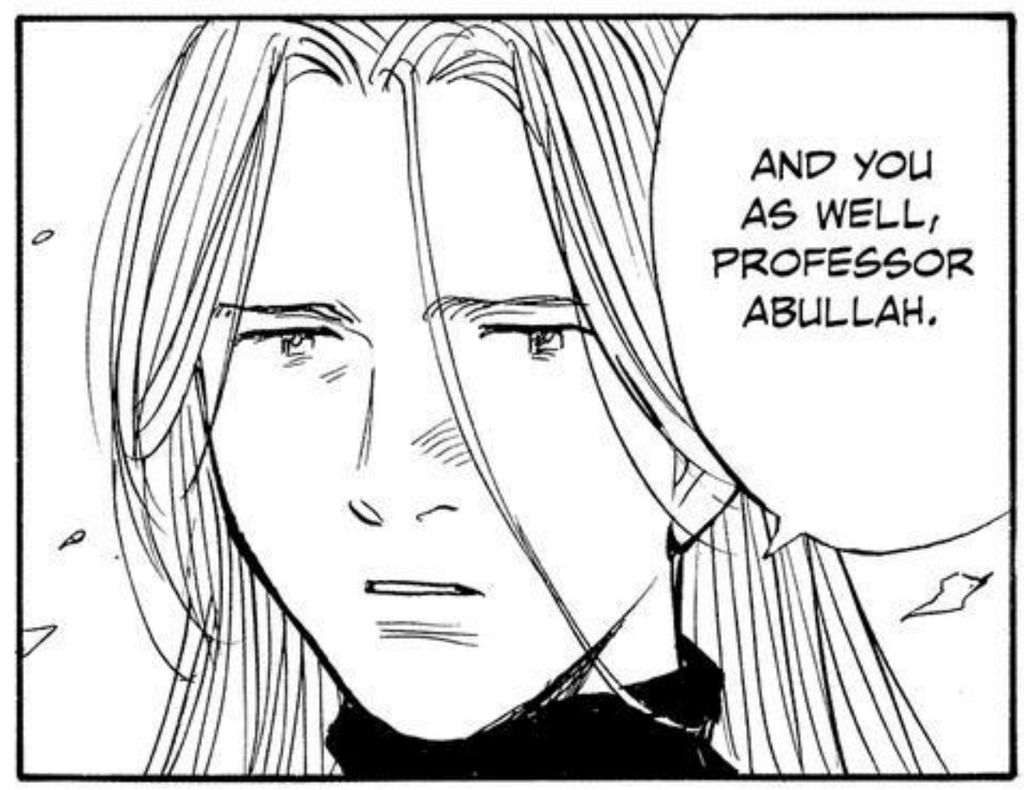
I NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE WOULD BE MURDERED LIKE THIS...

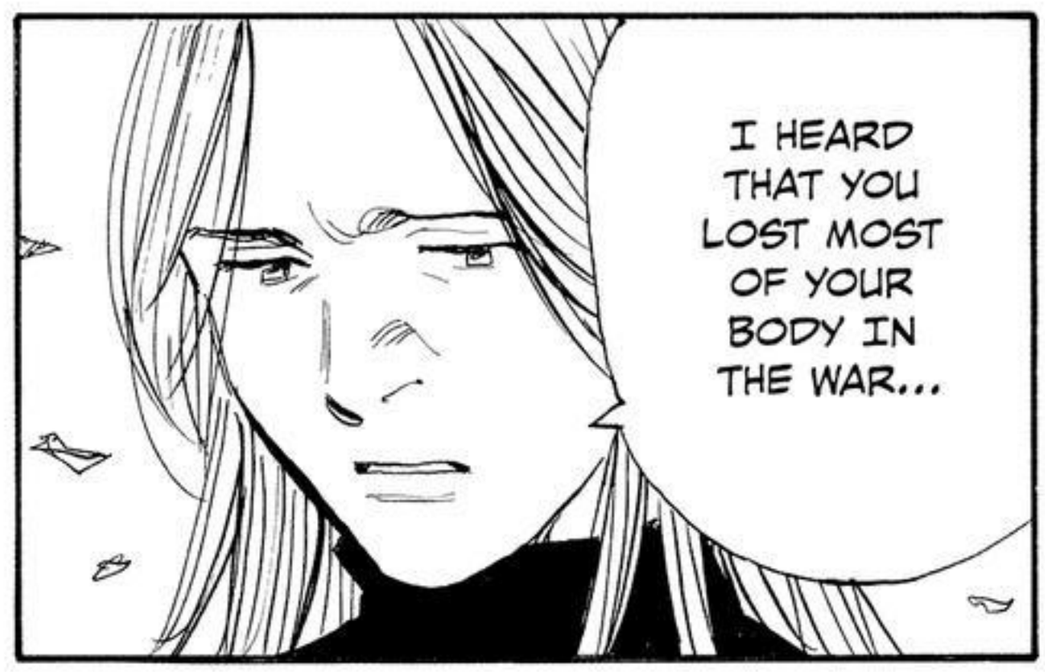

AS A MEMBER OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP, HE HELPED END THE DICTATORSHIP IN THE PERSIAN KINGDOM AND RESTORE PEACE...

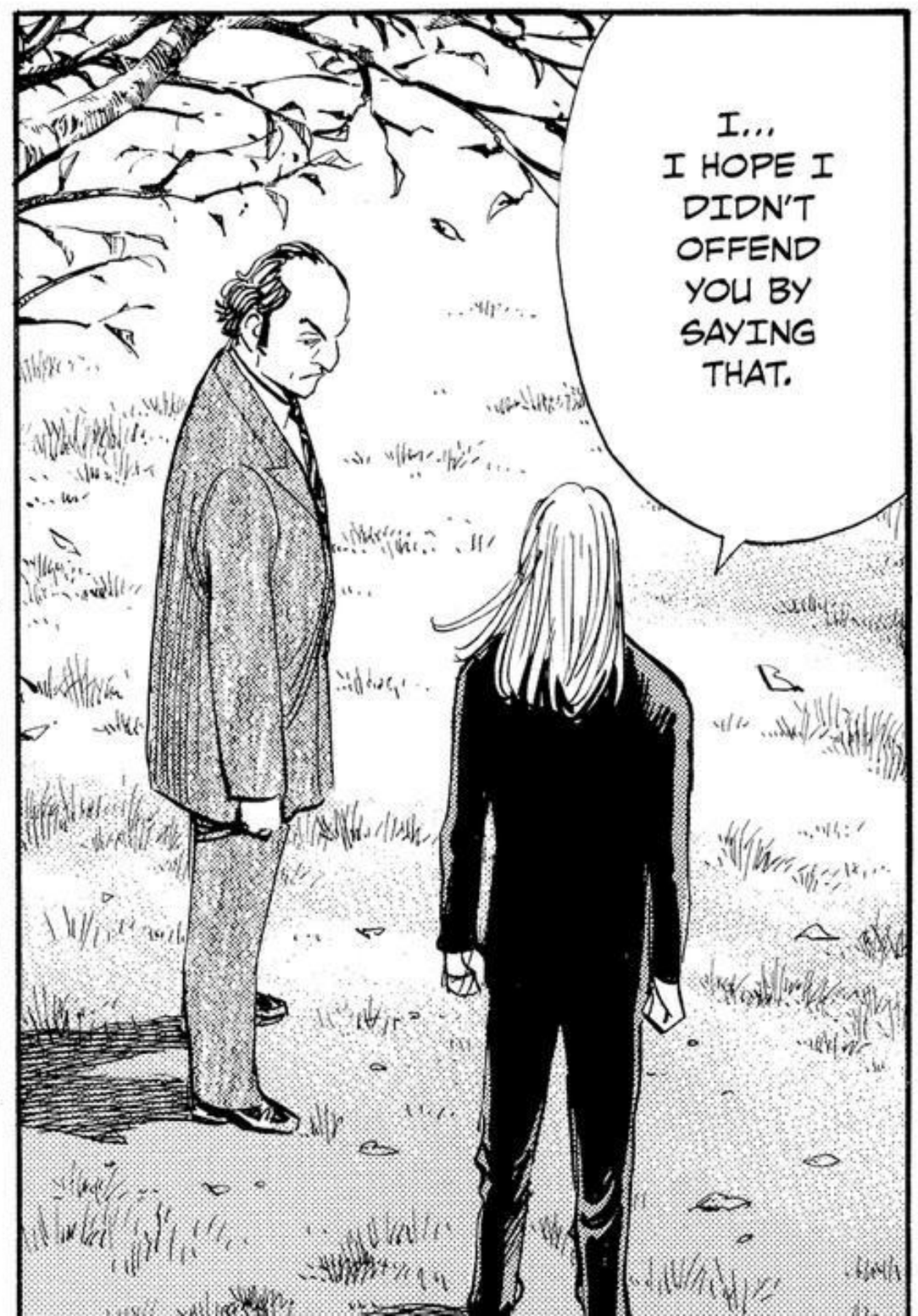

I'M AMAZED HOW PERFECT YOU ARE, EPSILON...

AND YOU ARE HIS GIFT TO THE WORLD...

...!!


AND YOU AS WELL, PROFESSOR ABULLAH.


I HEARD THAT YOU LOST MOST OF YOUR BODY IN THE WAR...


I... I HOPE I DIDN'T OFFEND YOU BY SAYING THAT.

COMPARED TO LOSING MY ENTIRE FAMILY, LOSING MY BODY WAS NOTHING...

IT'S NOT SO BAD.

ABULLAH...?

BZRT

BZZT

I SEE...

BUT I'M SURE THERE'S MORE YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT, RIGHT...?

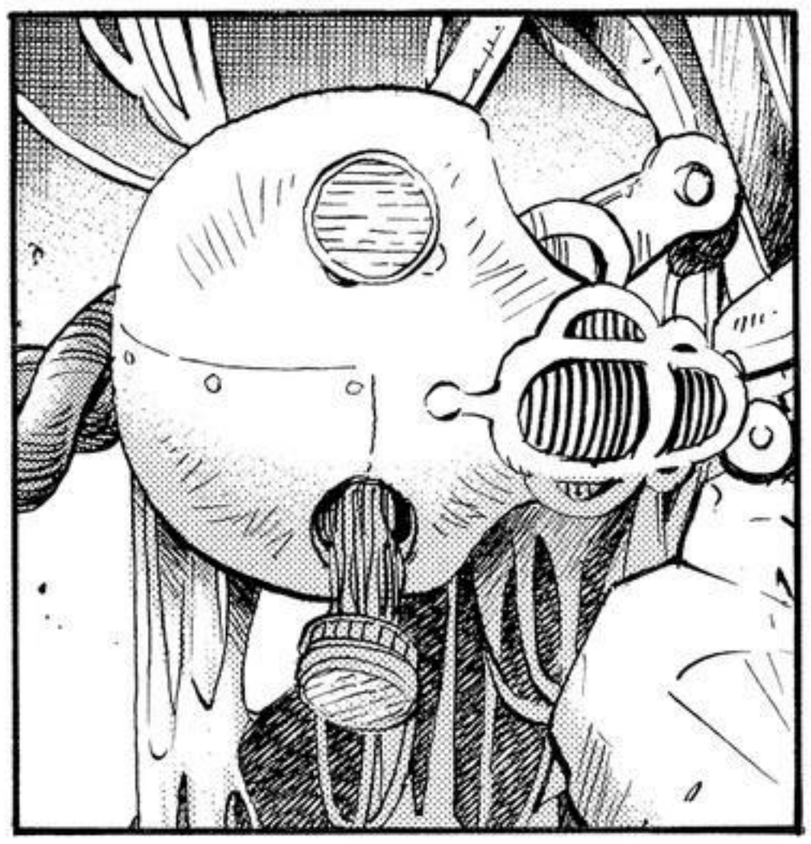
BZZZT...

BZZZT...

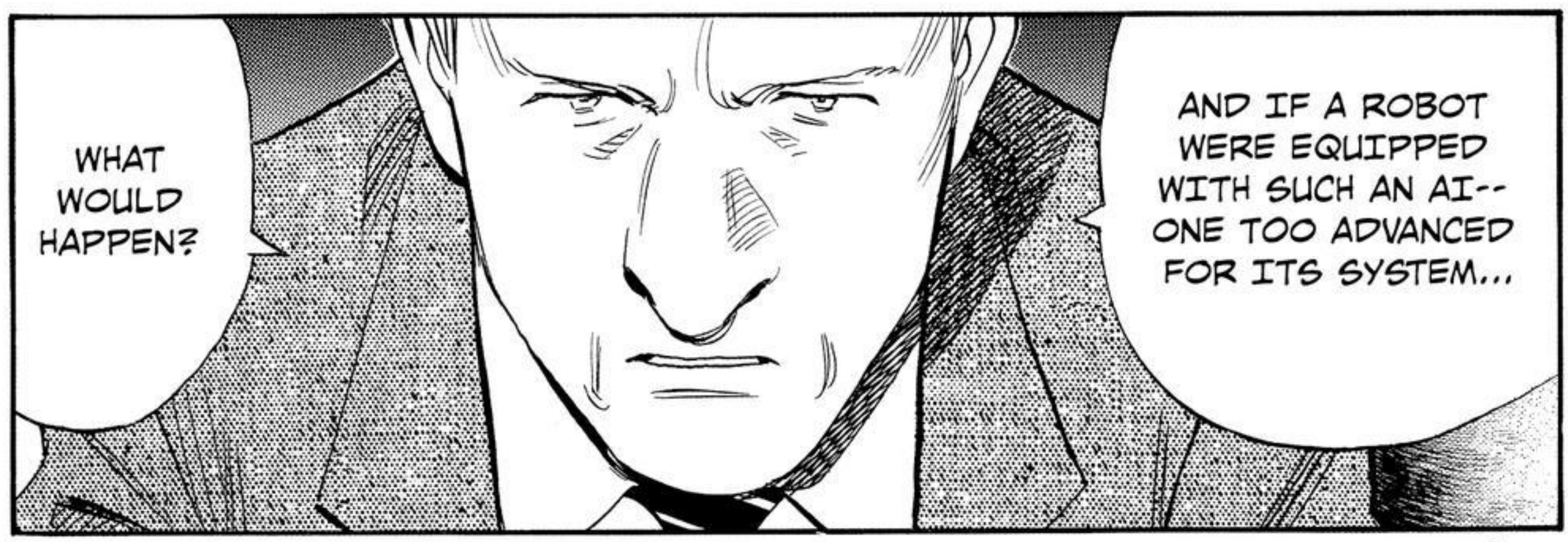
BZZRT

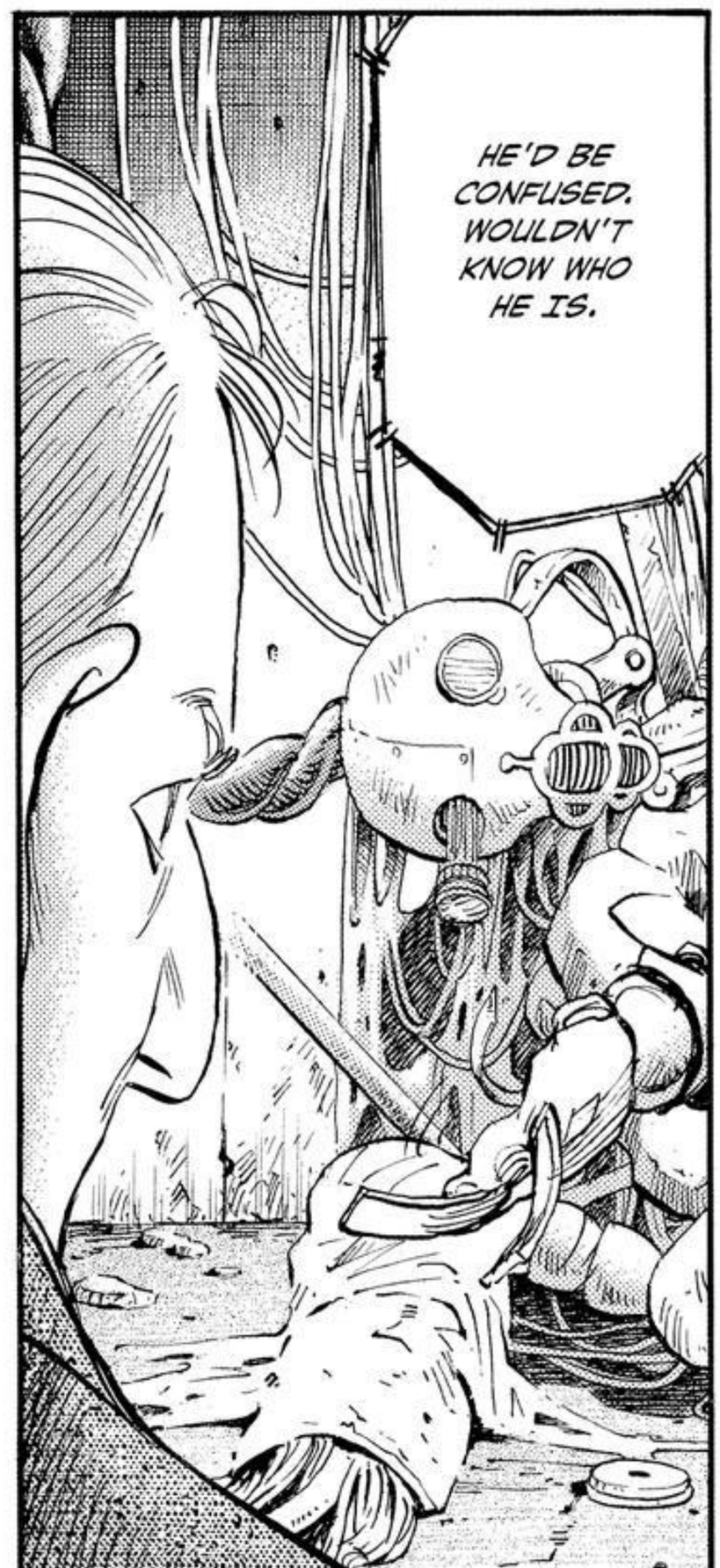
BZZRT

AND MAKING THAT ASSERTION WITH NO EVIDENCE IS SO LIKE YOU, GESICHT... HEH HEH HEH.

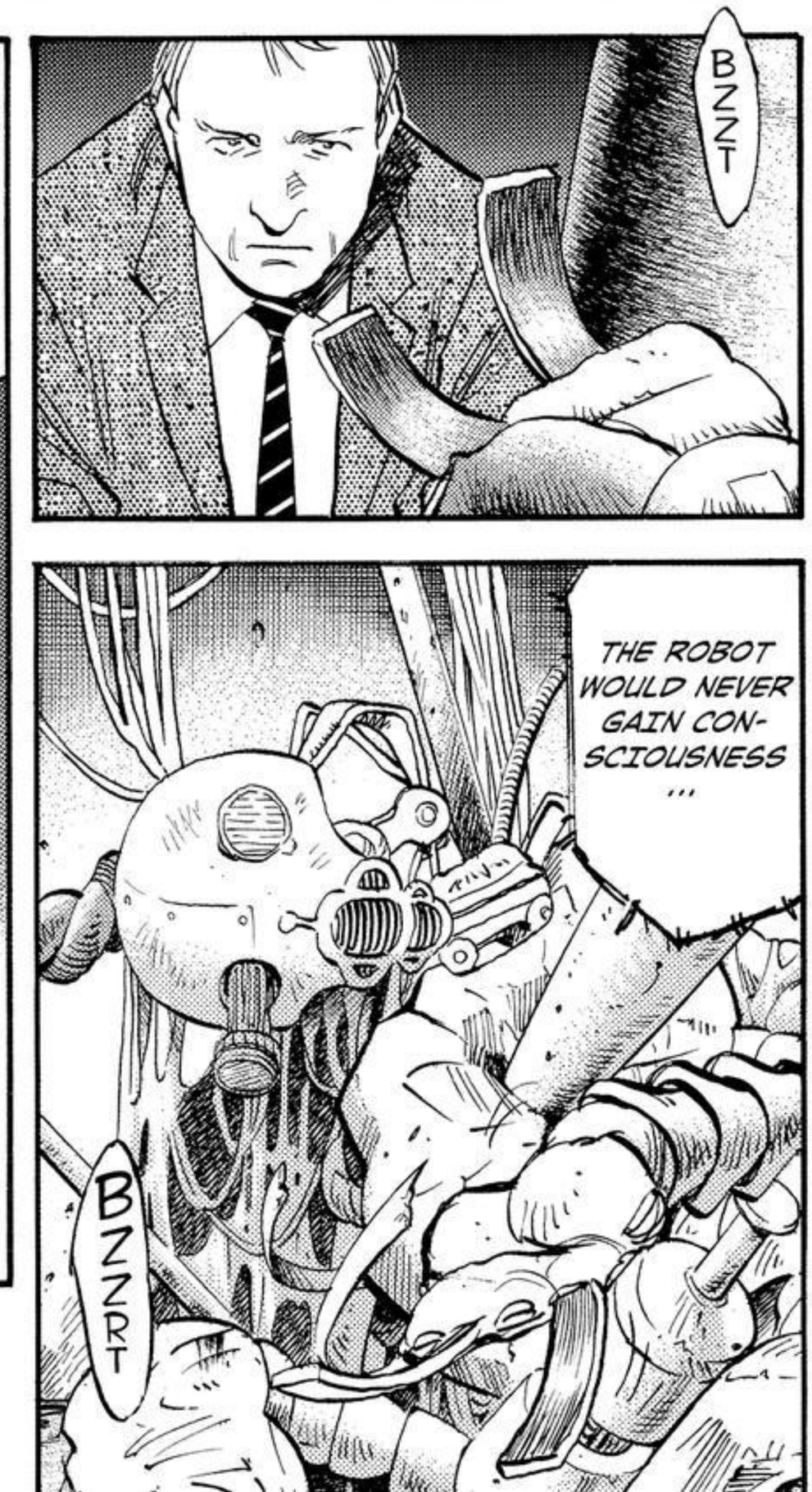


IF THE ULTIMATE AI DOES EXIST...

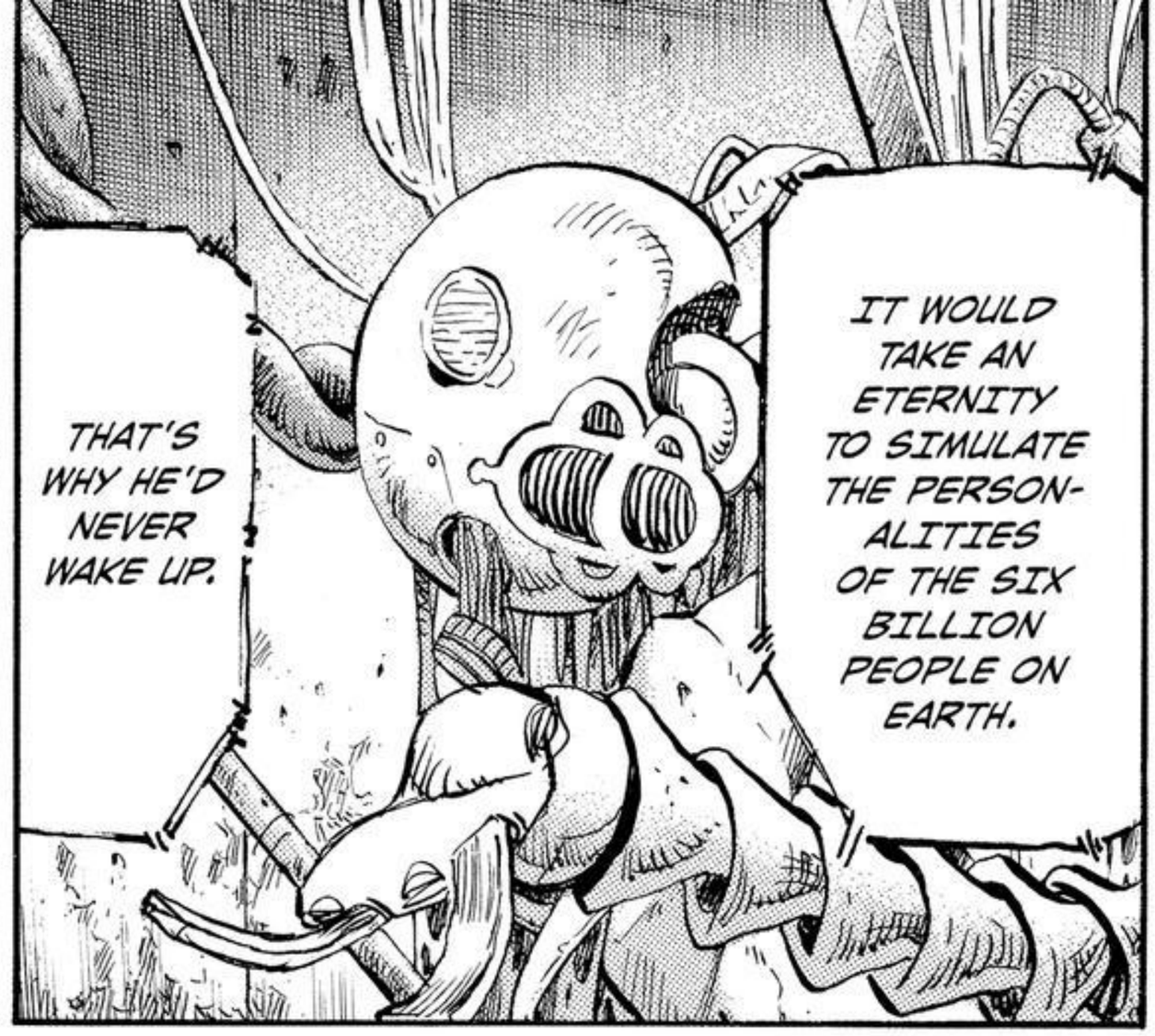

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
AND IF A ROBOT WERE EQUIPPED WITH SUCH AN AI-- ONE TOO ADVANCED FOR ITS SYSTEM...

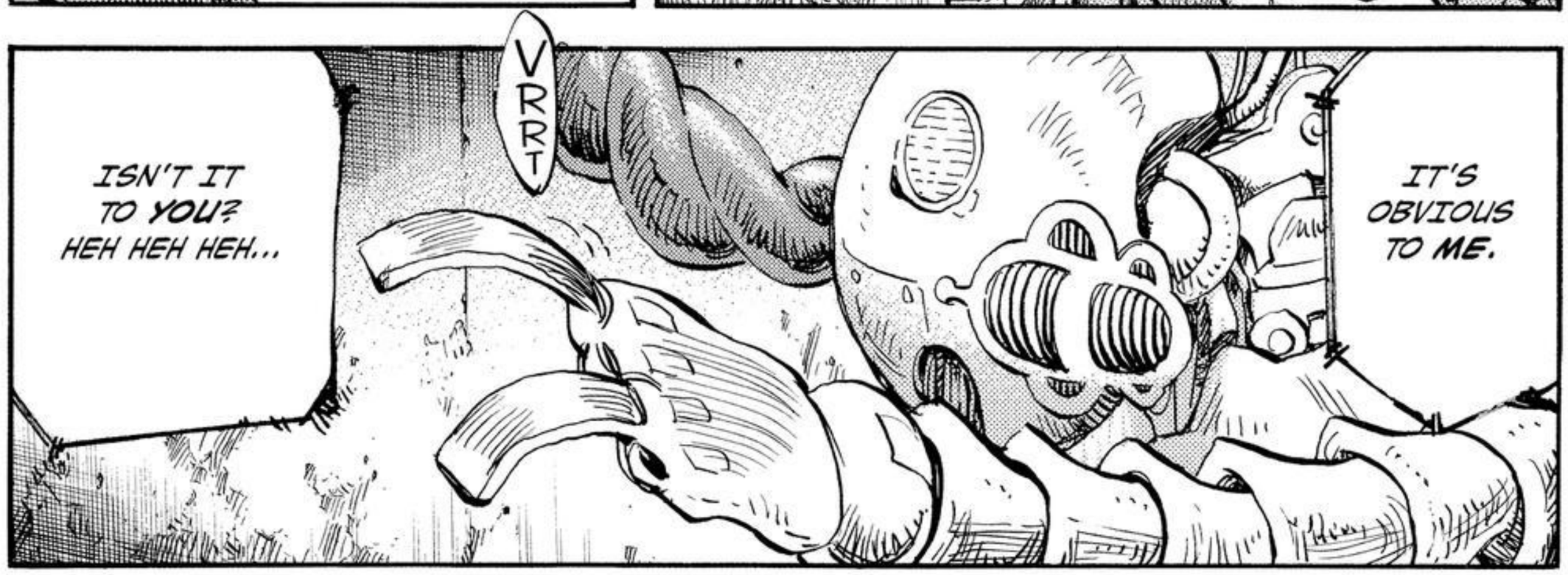

HE'D BE CONFUSED. WOULDN'T KNOW WHO HE IS.

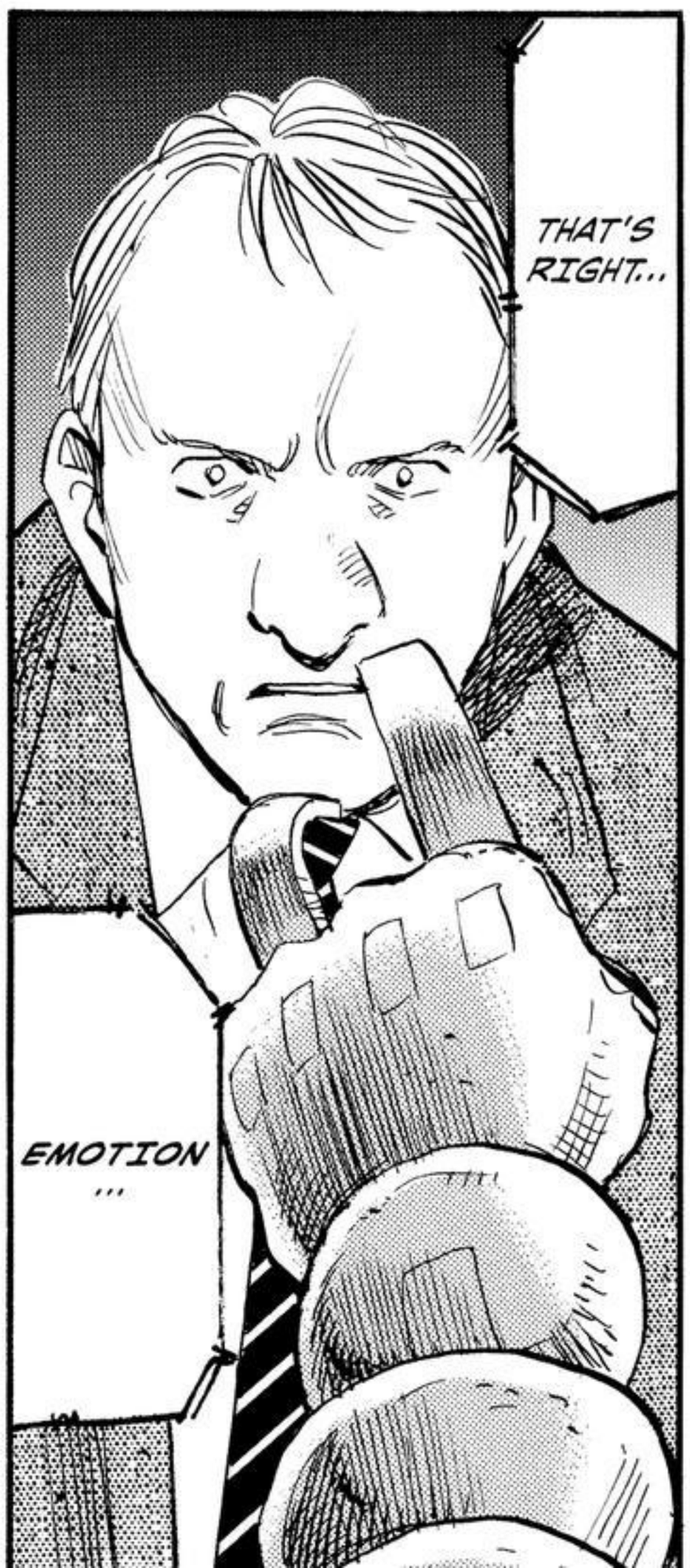
BUT WHY?


BZZT
THE ROBOT WOULD NEVER GAIN CON- SCIOUSNESS ...
BZZRT

WHAT WOULD WAKE HIM?


THAT'S WHY HE'D NEVER WAKE UP.
IT WOULD TAKE AN ETERNITY TO SIMULATE THE PERSONALITIES OF THE SIX BILLION PEOPLE ON EARTH.

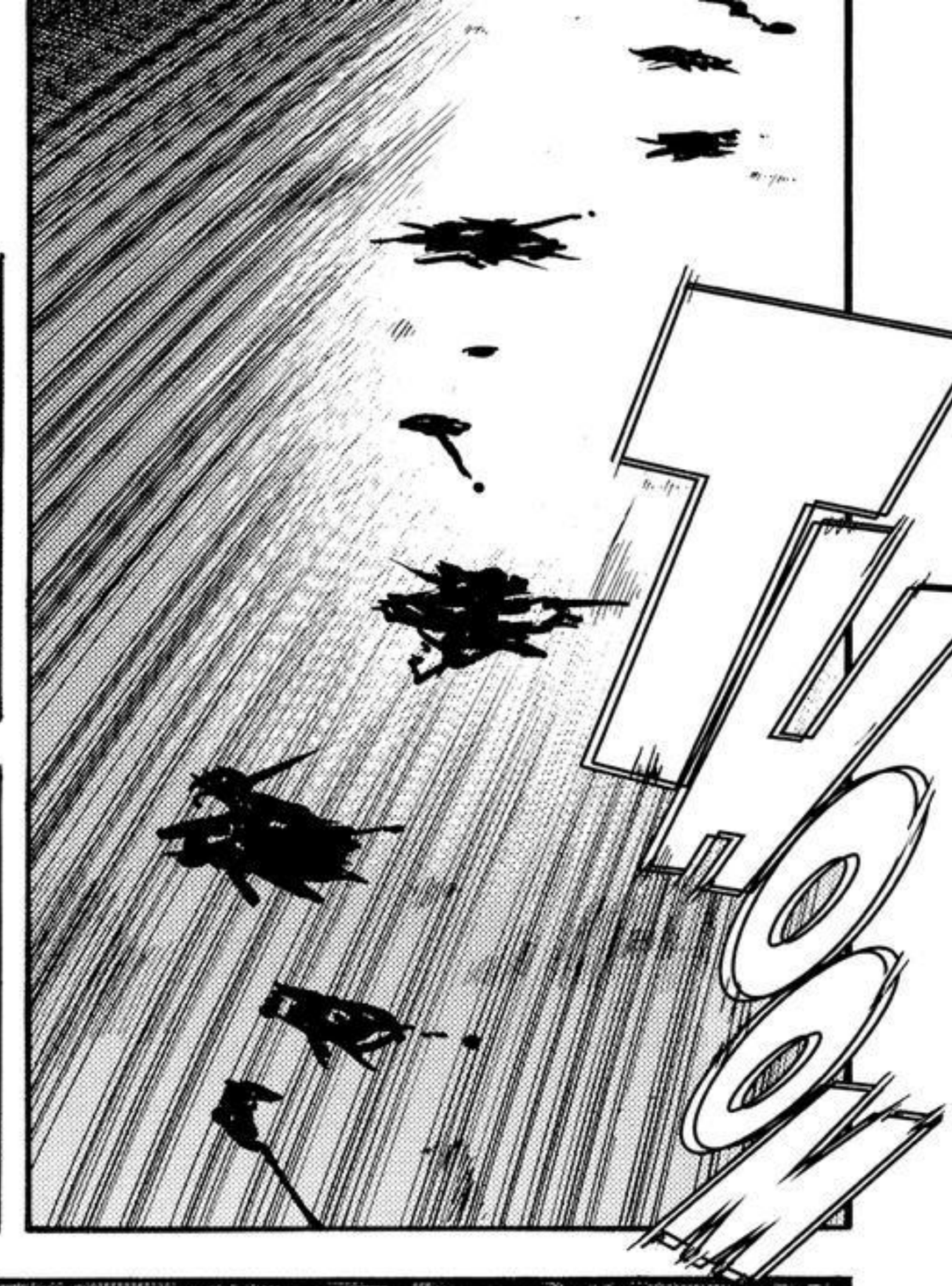

ISN'T IT TO YOU? HEH HEH HEH...
VRRT
IT'S OBVIOUS TO ME.

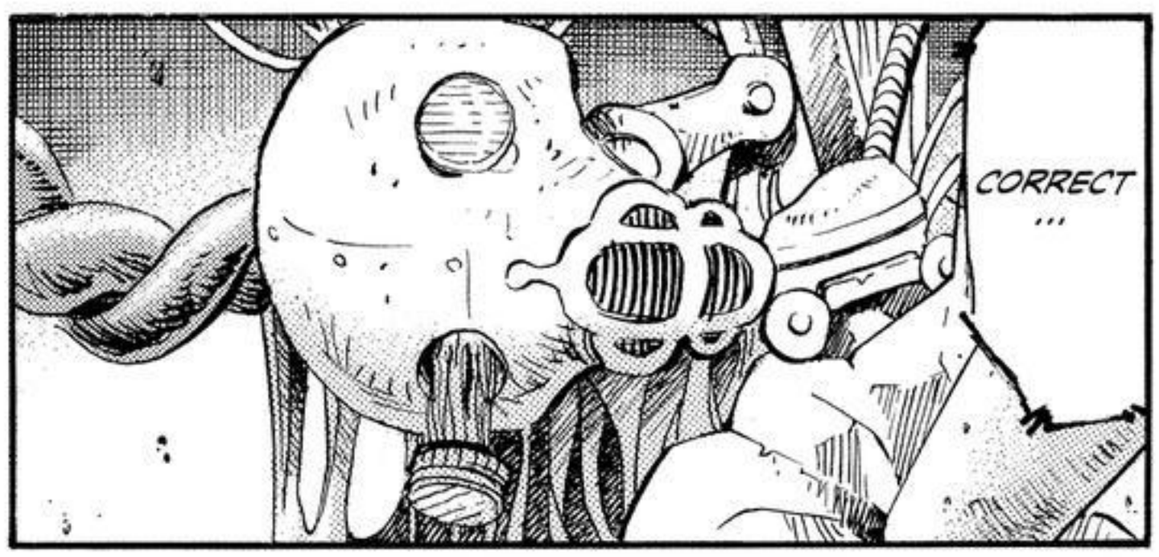

THAT'S RIGHT...
EMOTION ...

VRR
INTRODUCE AN EXTREME EMOTION...
AN EXTREME EMOTION?

...

HATRED?

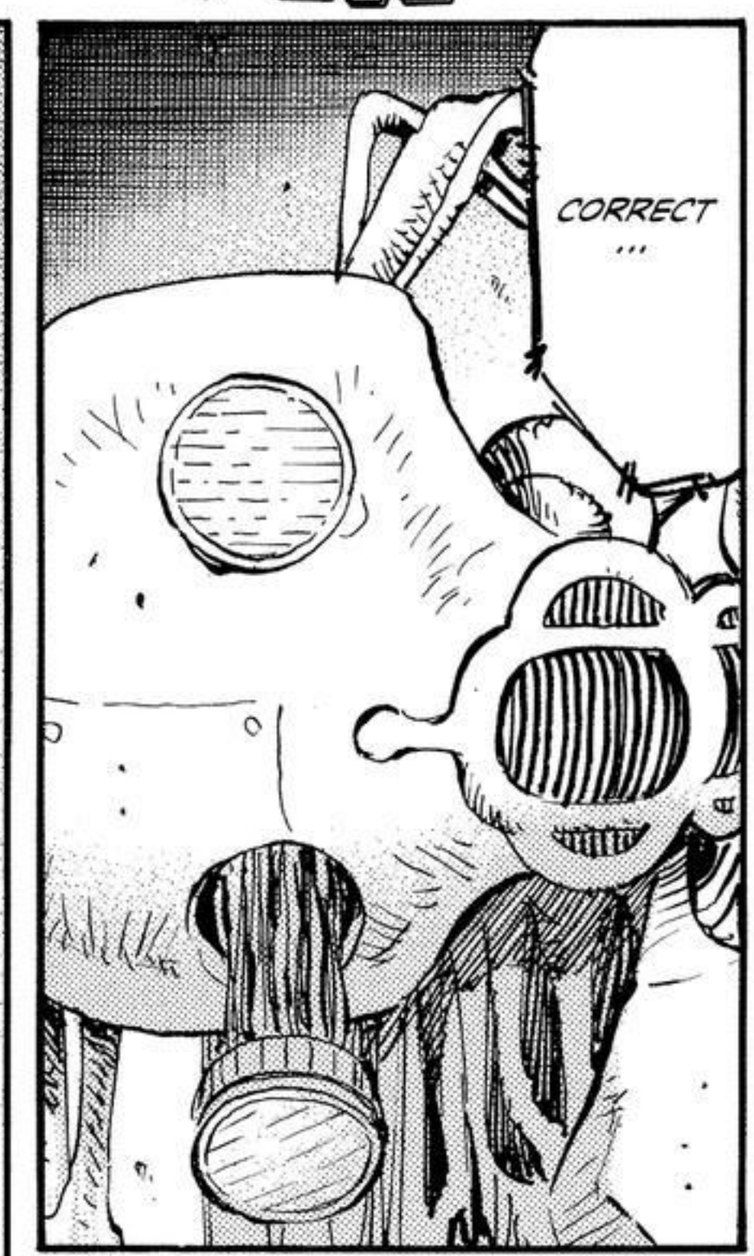

HOOM

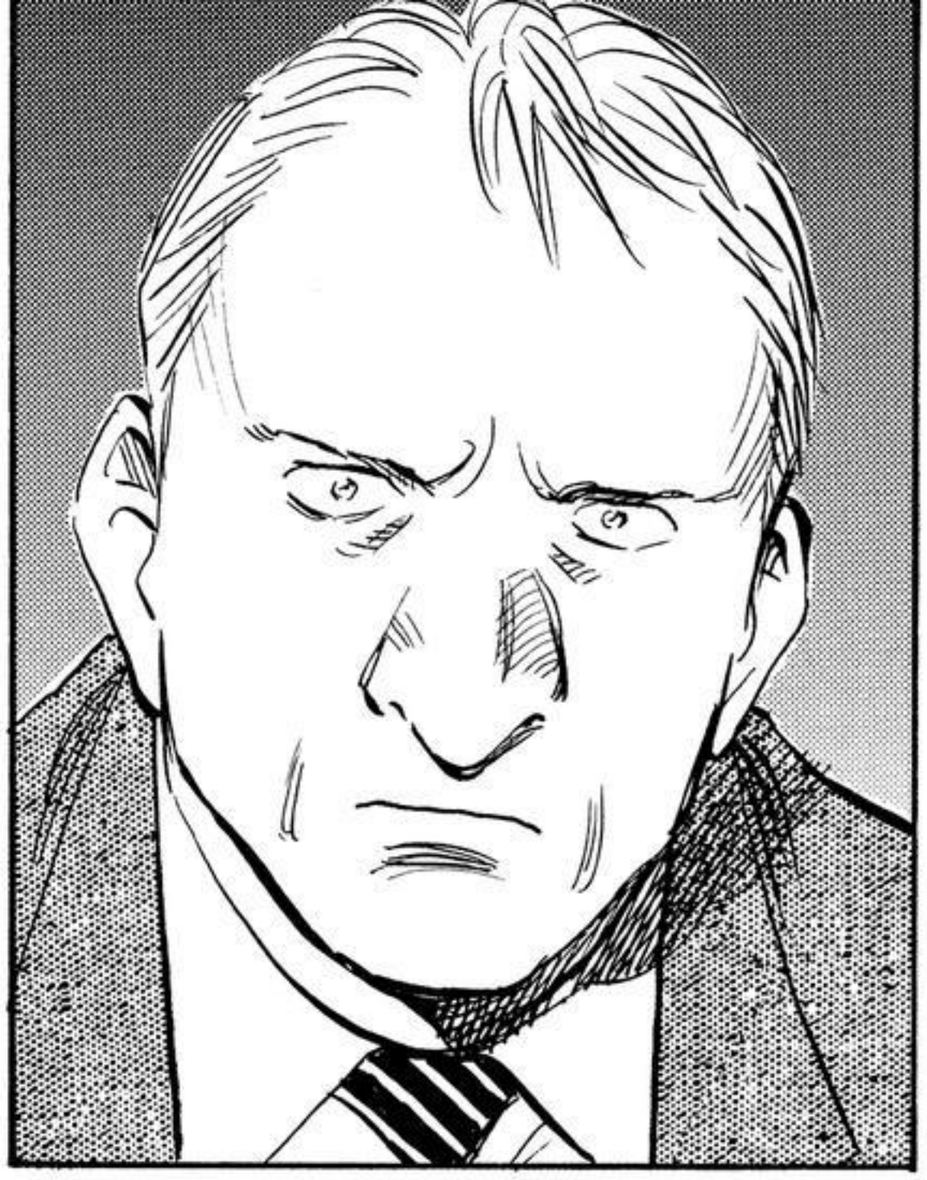

CORRECT ...

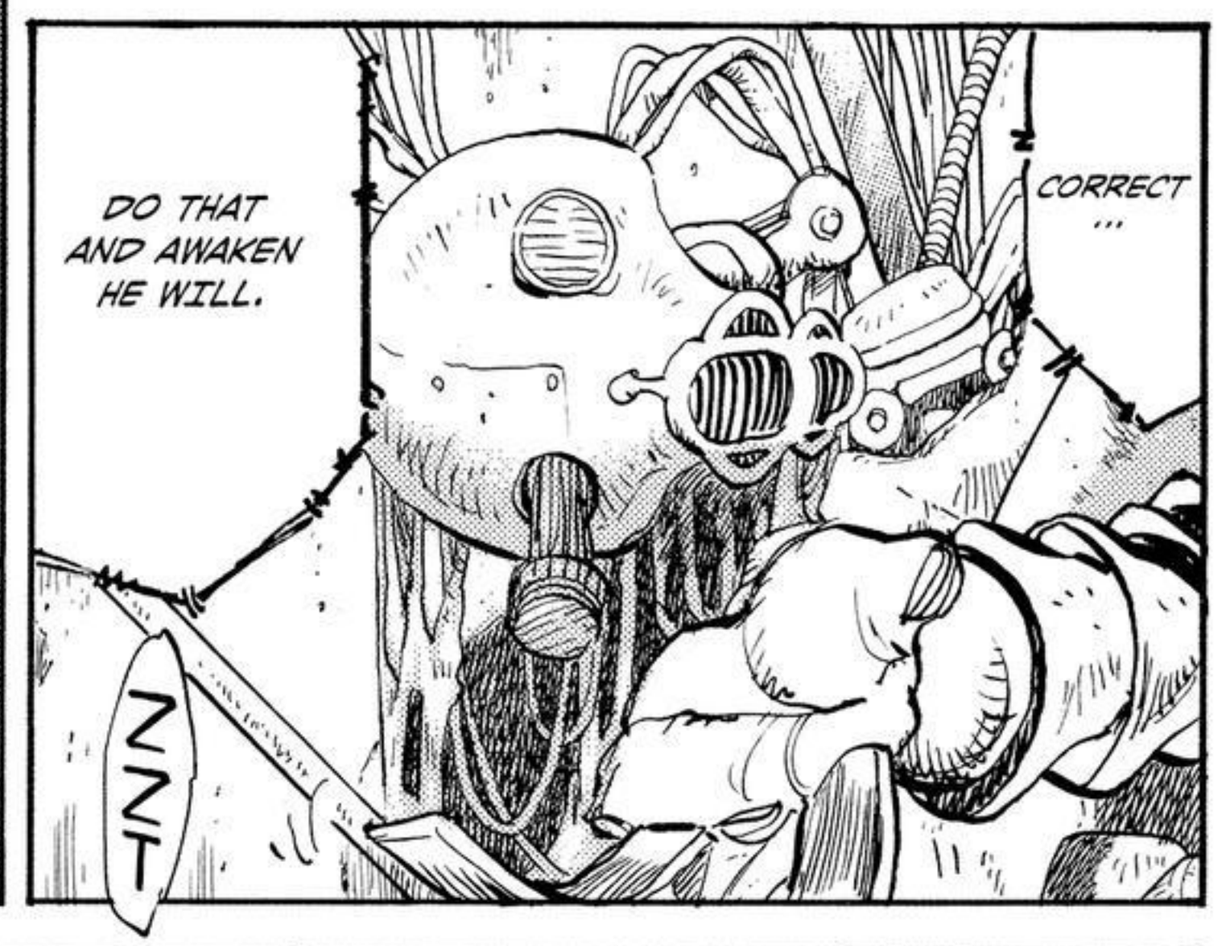
ANGER?

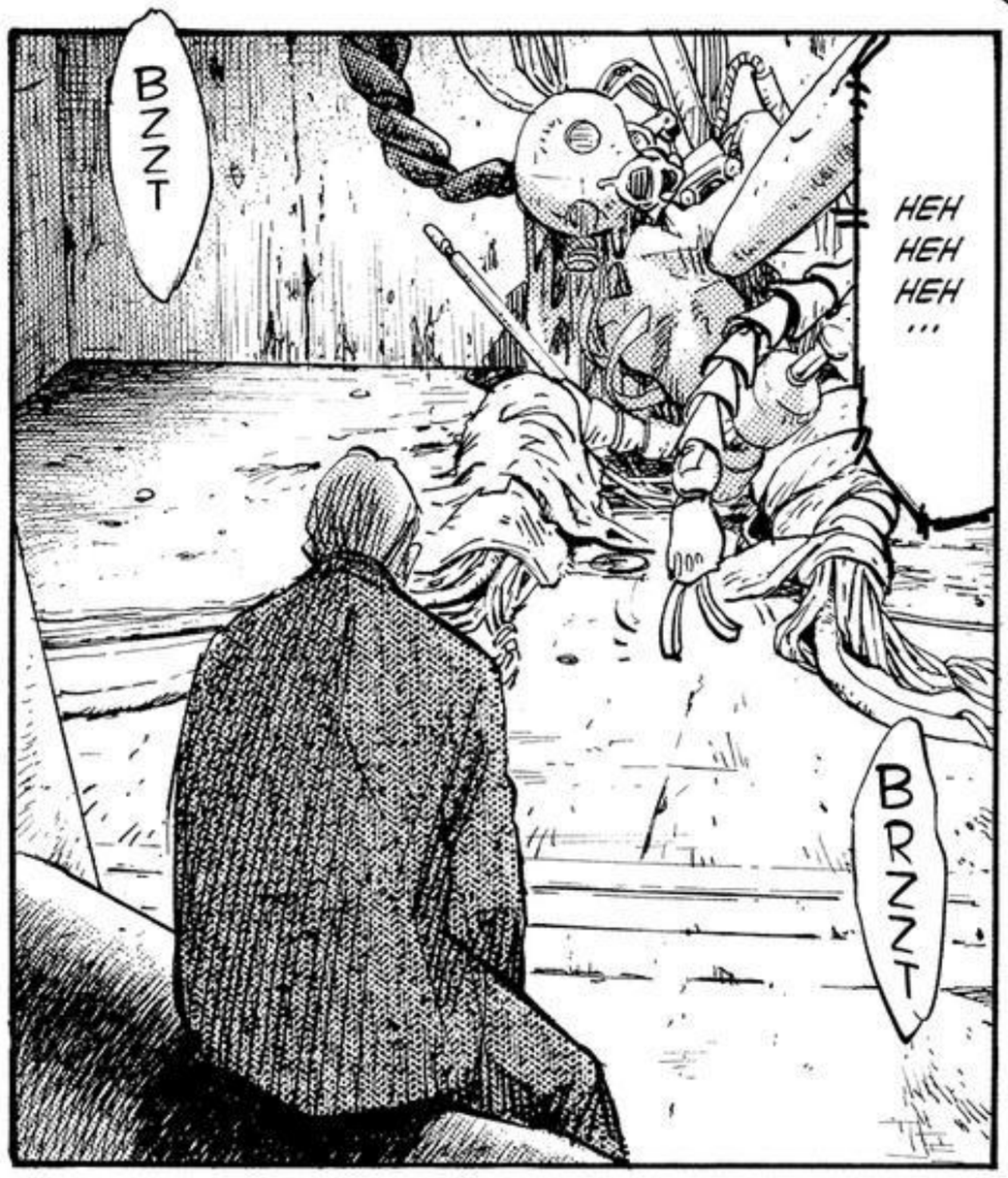
HOOM

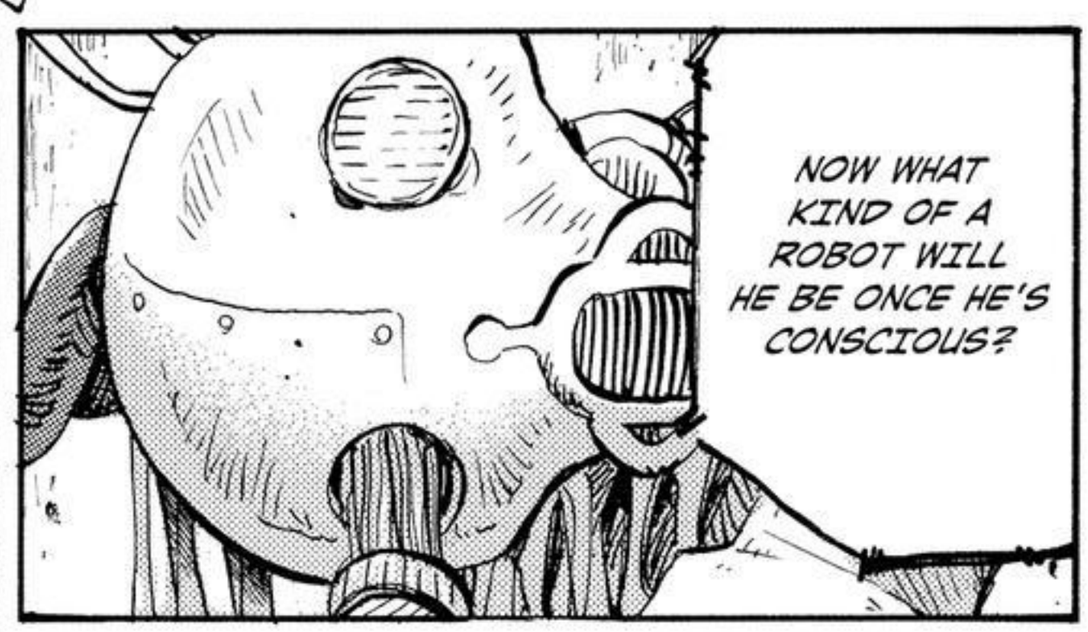
SADNESS?


CORRECT ...

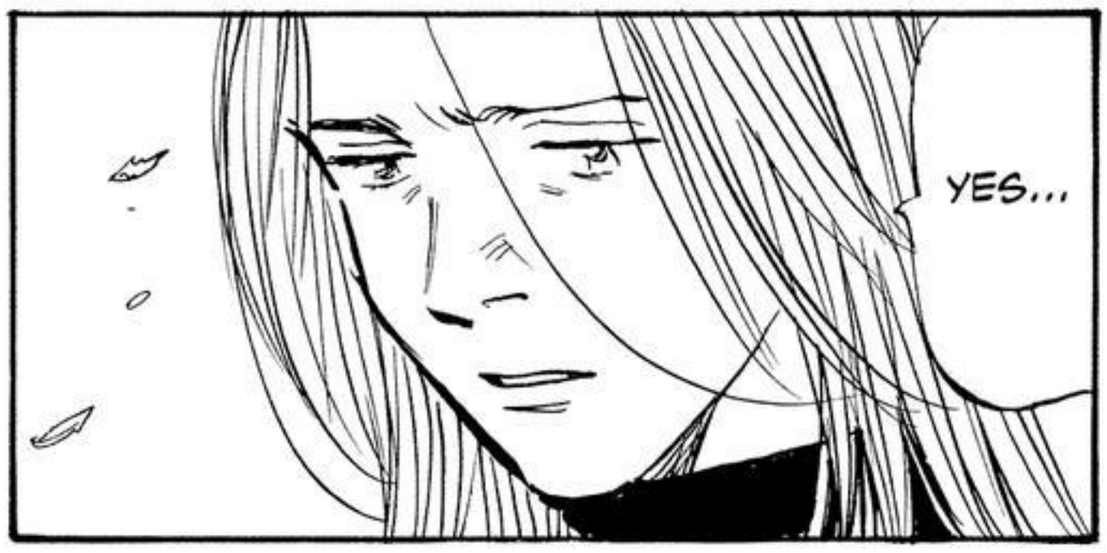



DO THAT AND AWAKEN HE WILL.
CORRECT ...
ZZT


BZZT
HEH HEH HEH ...
BRZZT

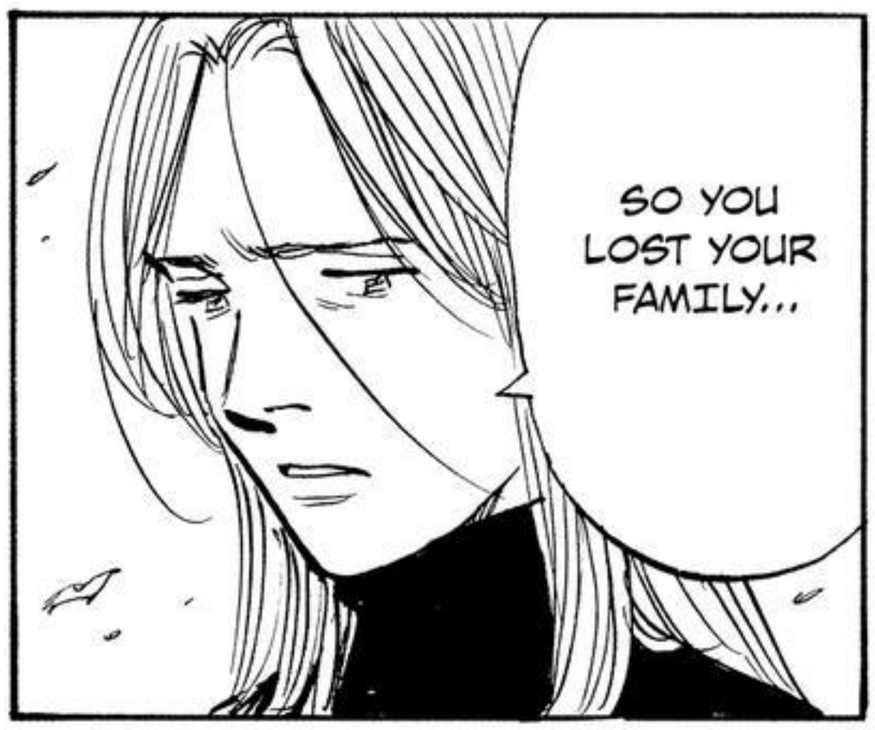

NOW WHAT KIND OF A ROBOT WILL HE BE ONCE HE'S CONSCIOUS?

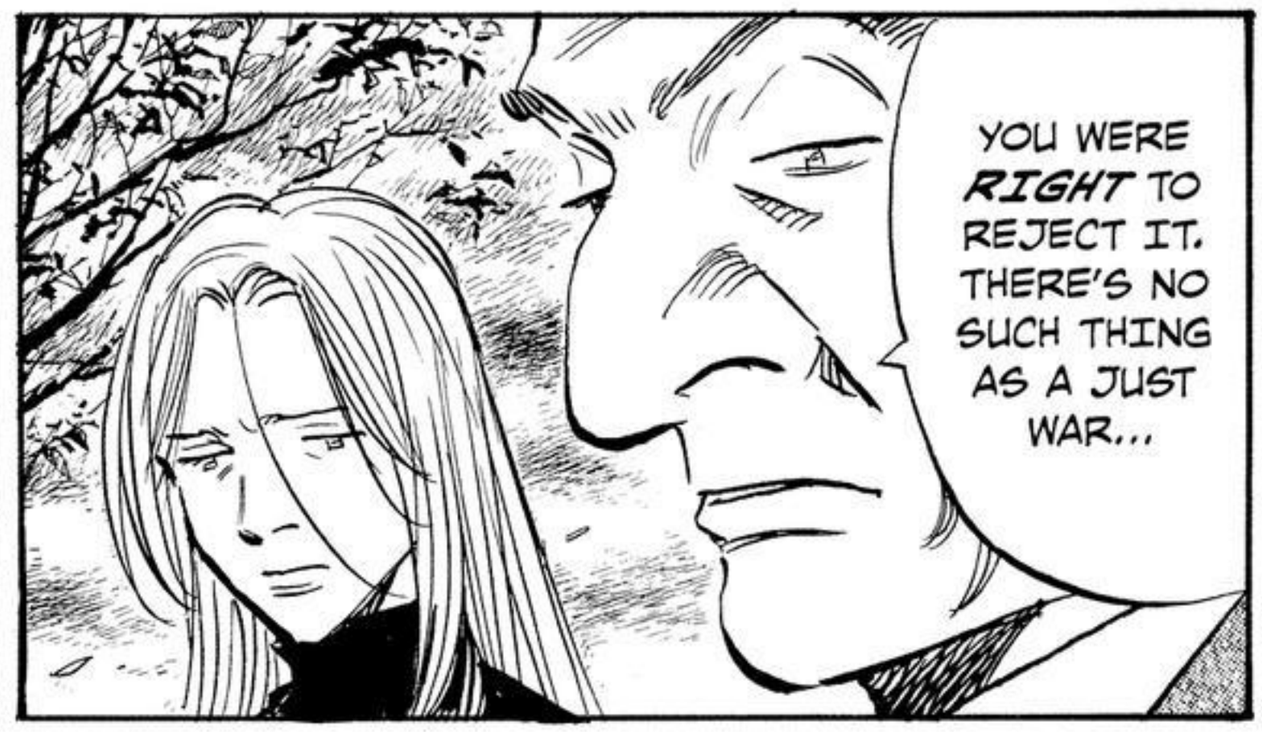
IT COULD RAIN AT ANY MOMENT, JUDGING FROM THESE CLOUDS.

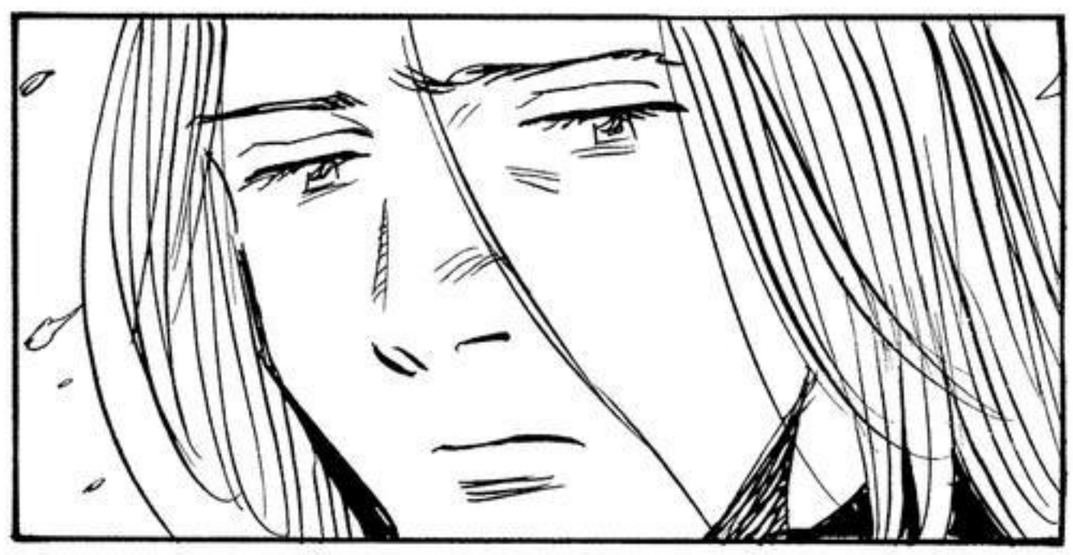

YES...

HAVING BEEN A CONSCIEN-TIOUS OBJECTOR IN THE WAR...
WELL, YOU DON'T NEED SUCH POWER ANYWAY.

DO YOU FIND YOUR POWERS WEAKEN IN THIS SORT OF WEATHER, EPSILON?


SO YOU LOST YOUR FAMILY...


YOU WERE *RIGHT* TO REJECT IT. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A JUST WAR...



THE WAR ROBBED ME OF EVERYTHING.
MY WIFE, MY CHILDREN...

FSHHH

IT'S STARTING TO COME DOWN.

Y... YOU'RE CRYING...

PLP

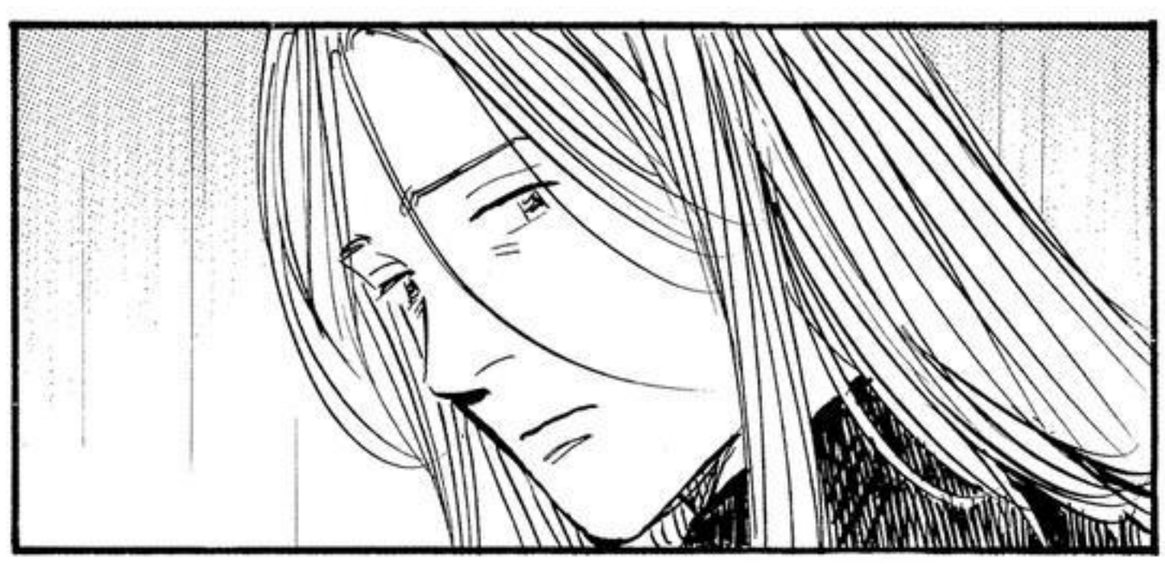
PLP

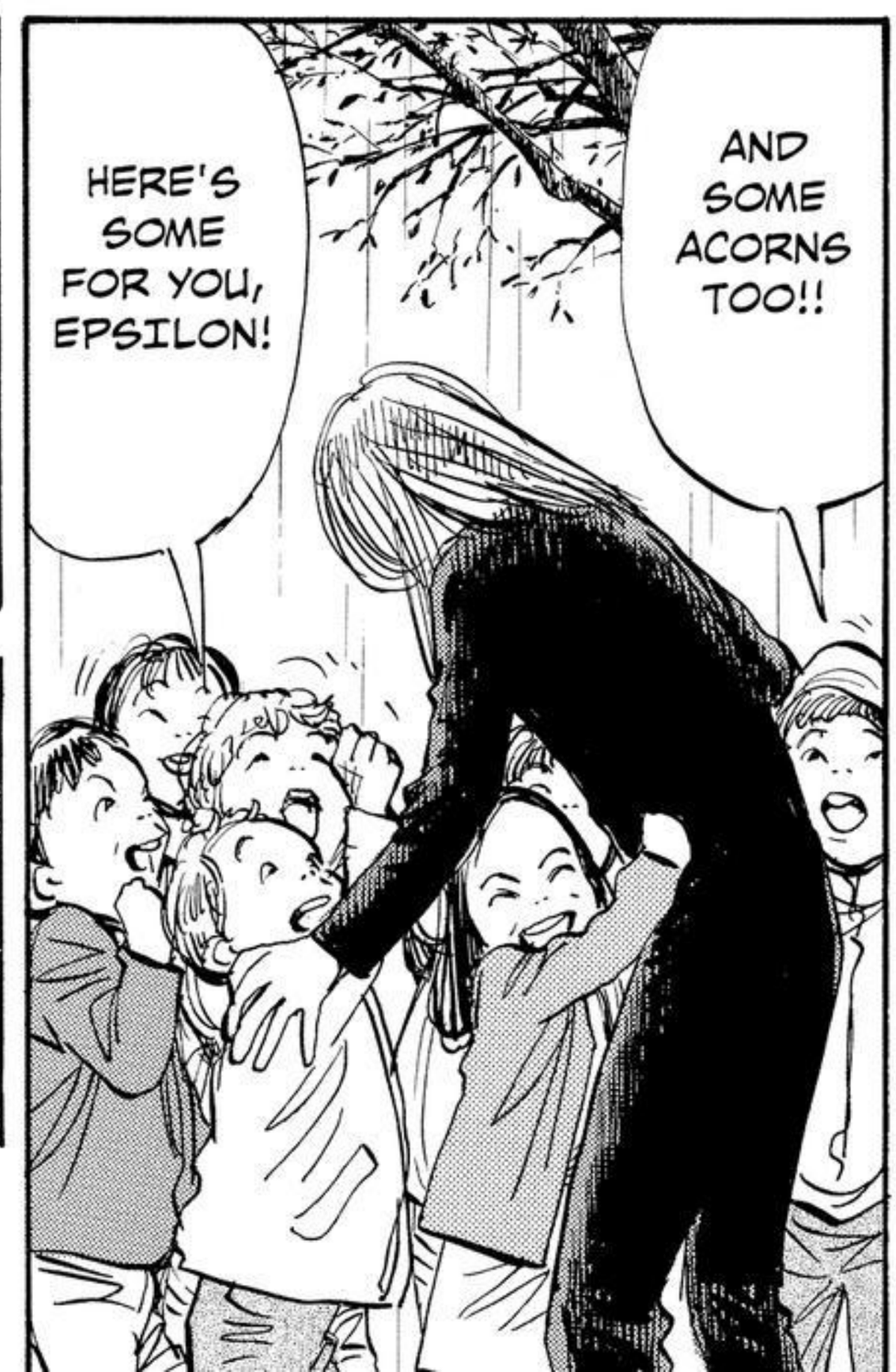
AND IT APPEARS THE FUNERAL'S OVER TOO...

TELL ME, EPSILON, WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU?

IT'S FREEZING !!

EEEK! IT'S RAINING !!





TAKE CARE OF THESE CHILDREN, EPSILON.

GRP

GIVE THEM AS MUCH LOVE AS YOU CAN.

DO IT FOR MY SAKE. FOR WHAT I'VE LOST...

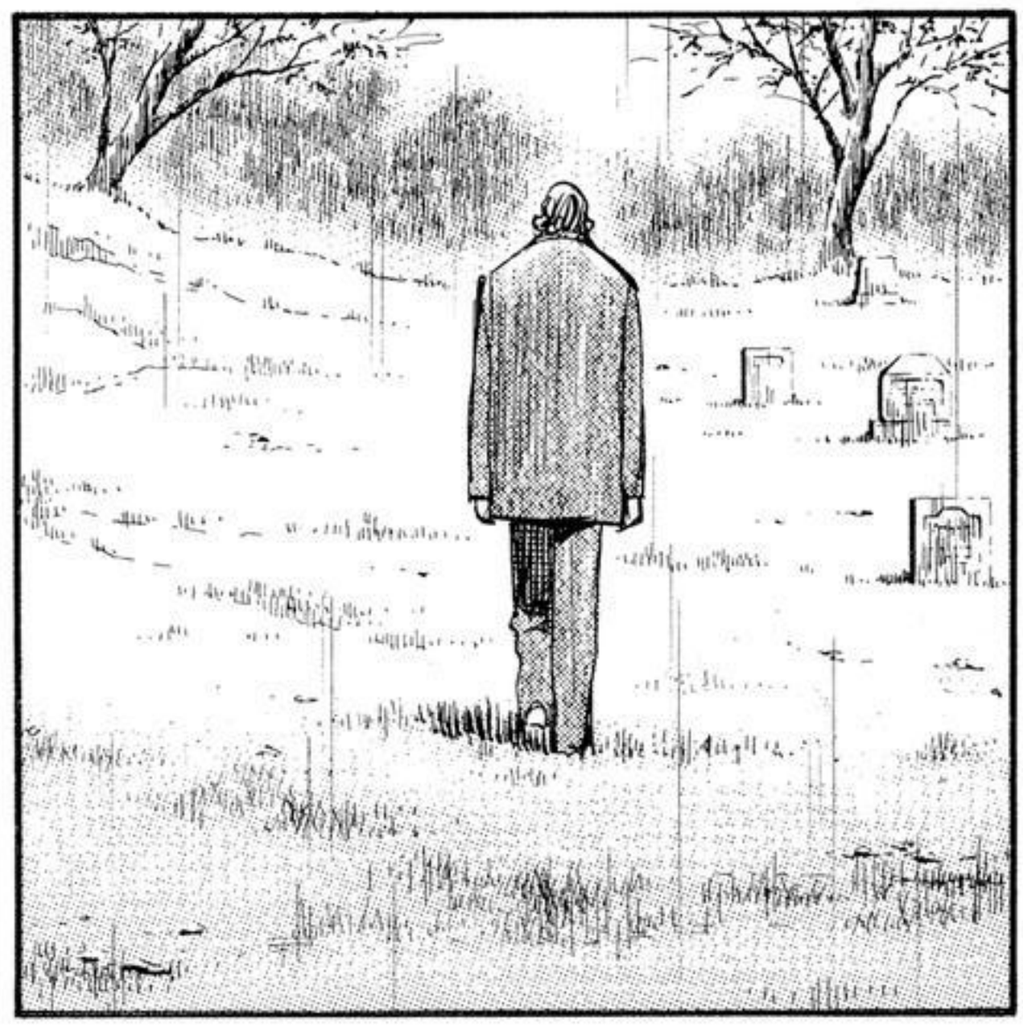
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

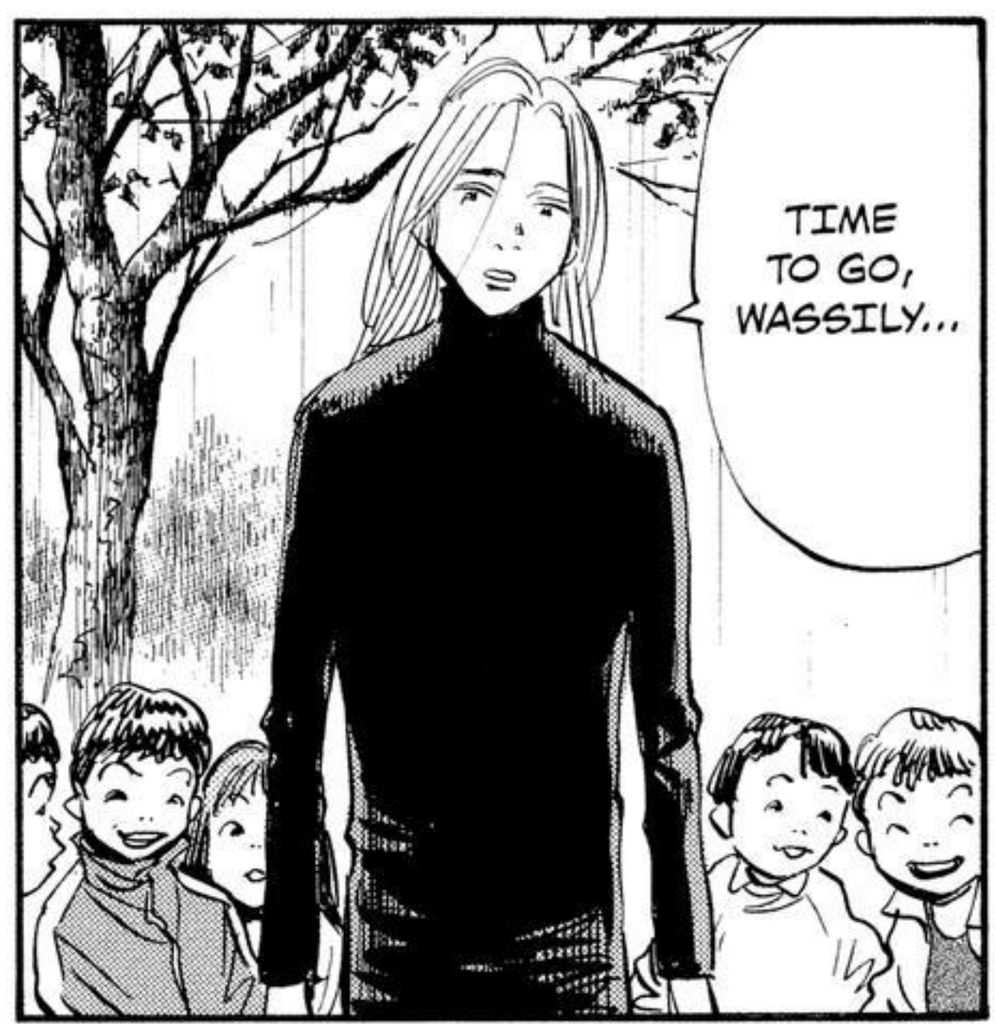
WE MUST MAKE WONDERFUL ROBOTS LIKE YOU...

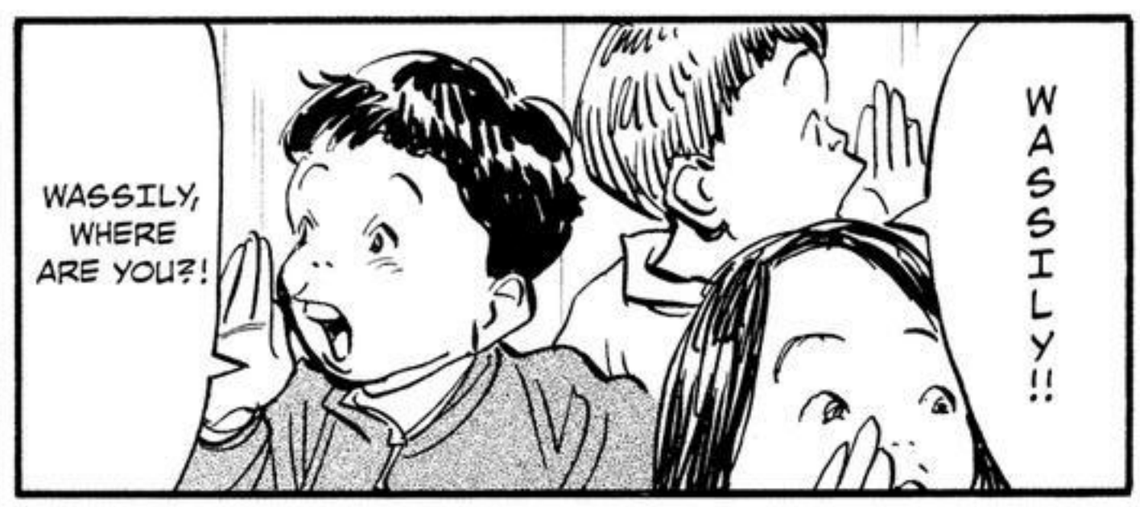
I'M TO ATTEND THE EUROPEAN ROBOTICS CONFERENCE.
FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PERSIA...

HEY, WHERE'S WASSILY?

WASSILY!!

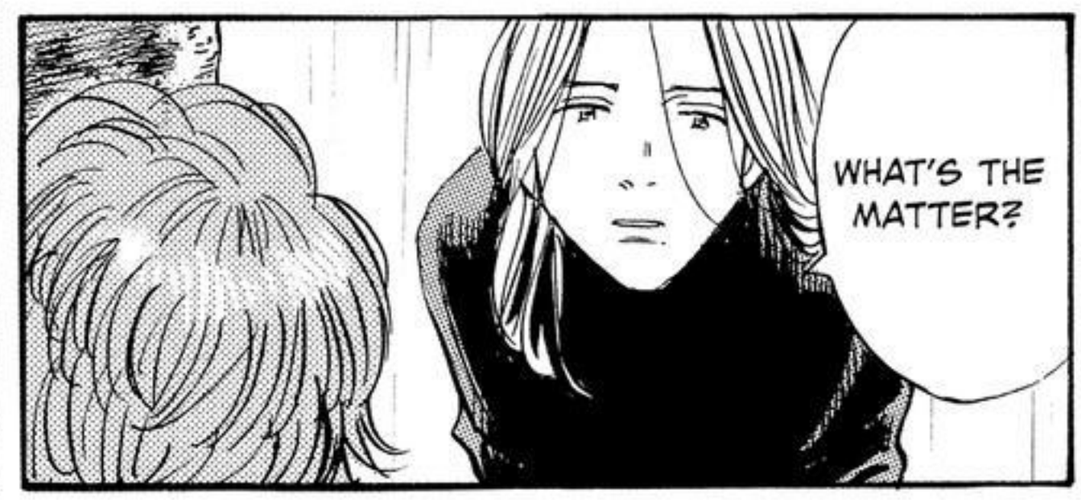


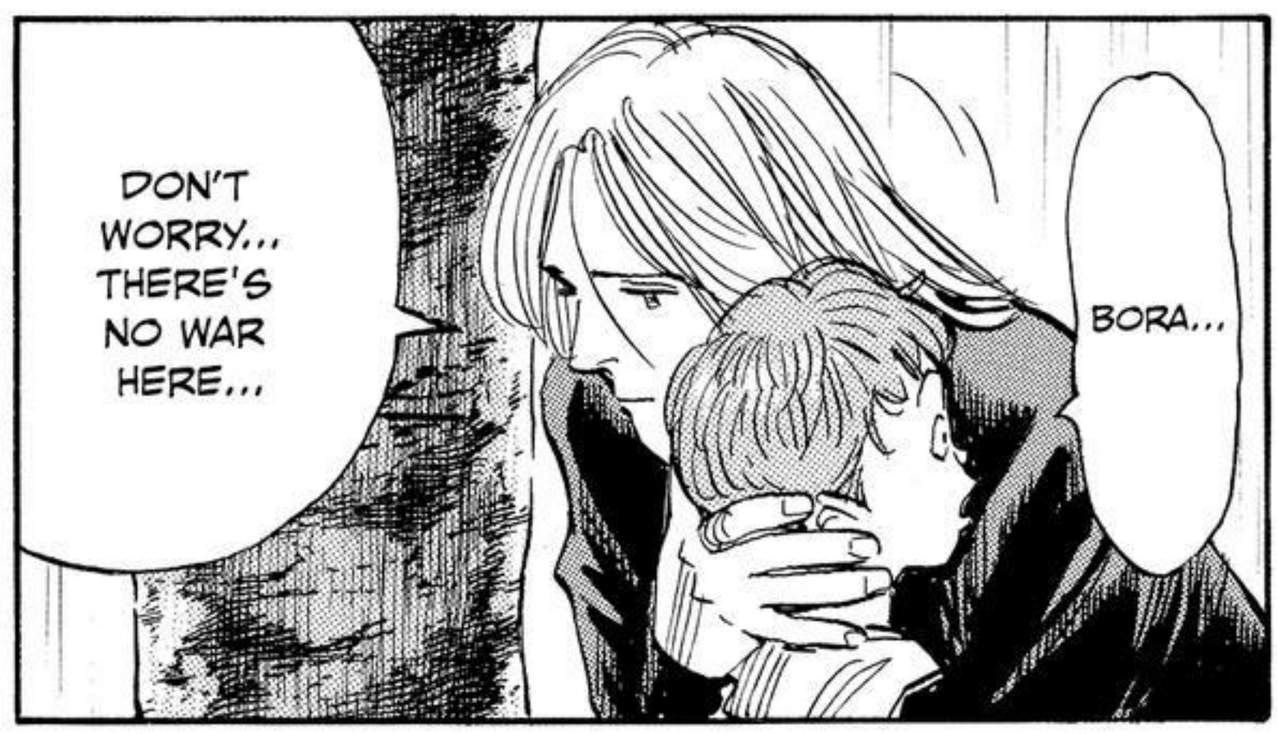

TIME TO GO, WASSILY...

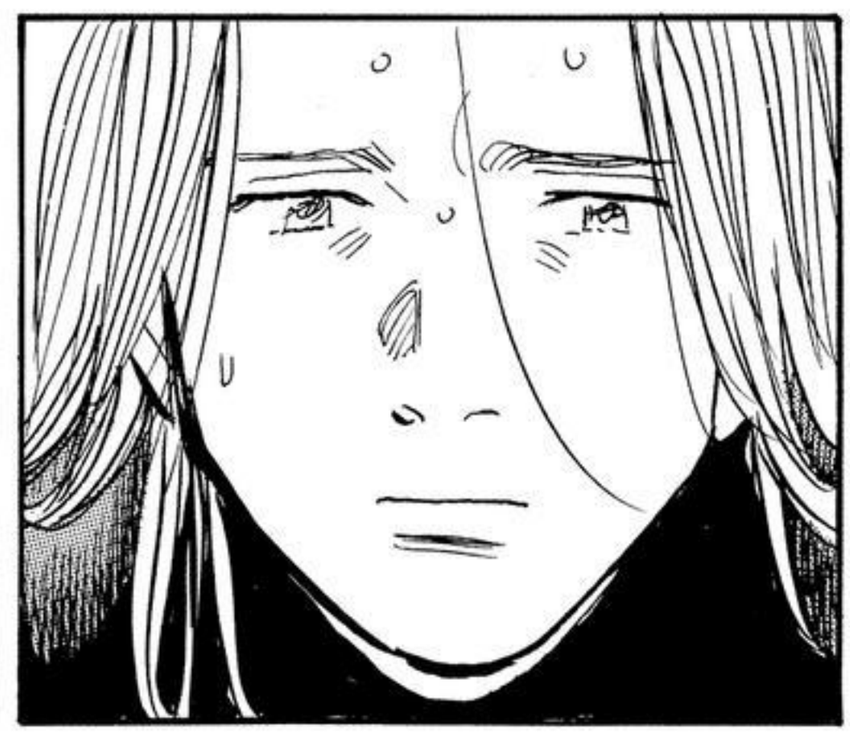

WASSILY, WHERE ARE YOU?!
WASSILY!!

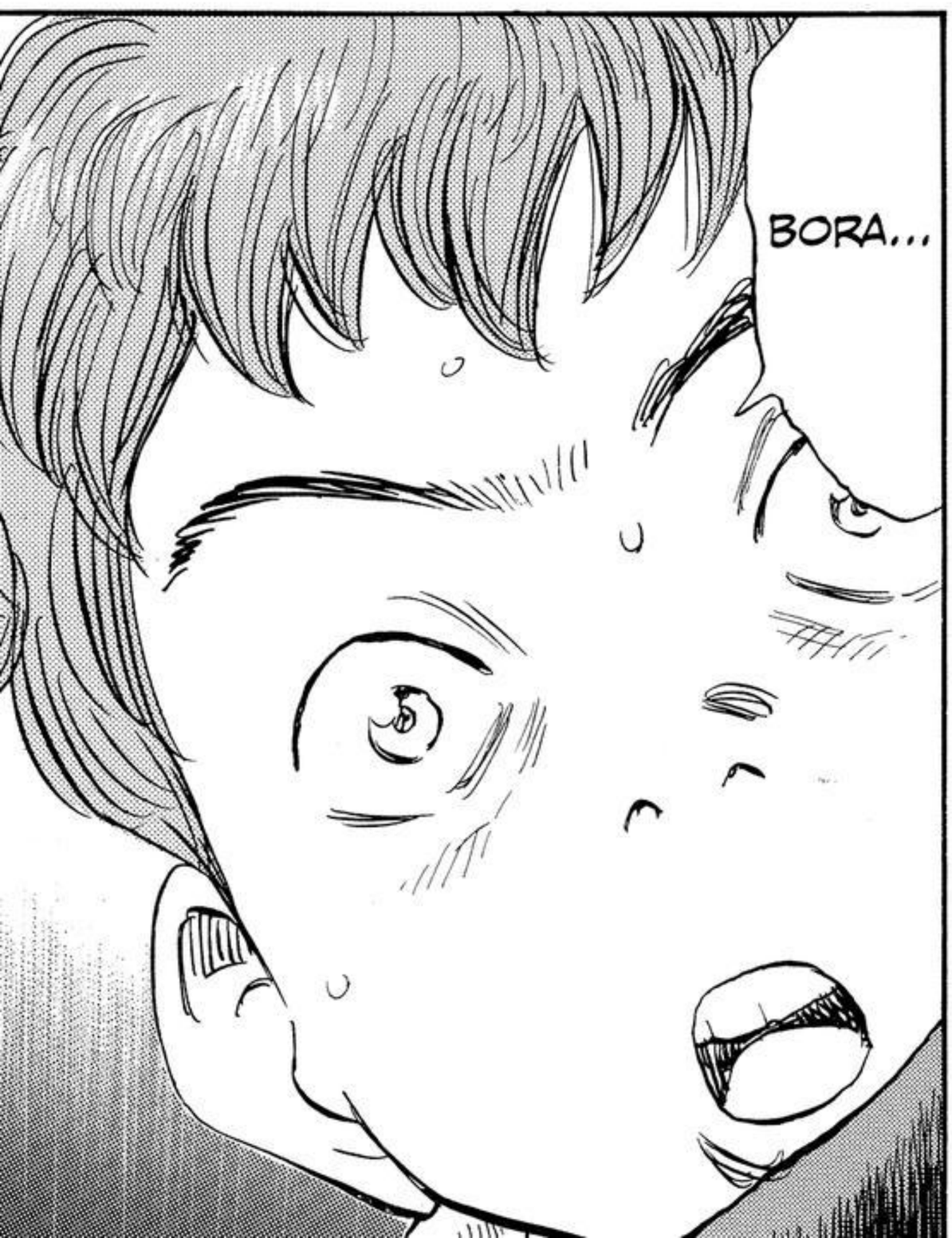
THERE HE IS!!

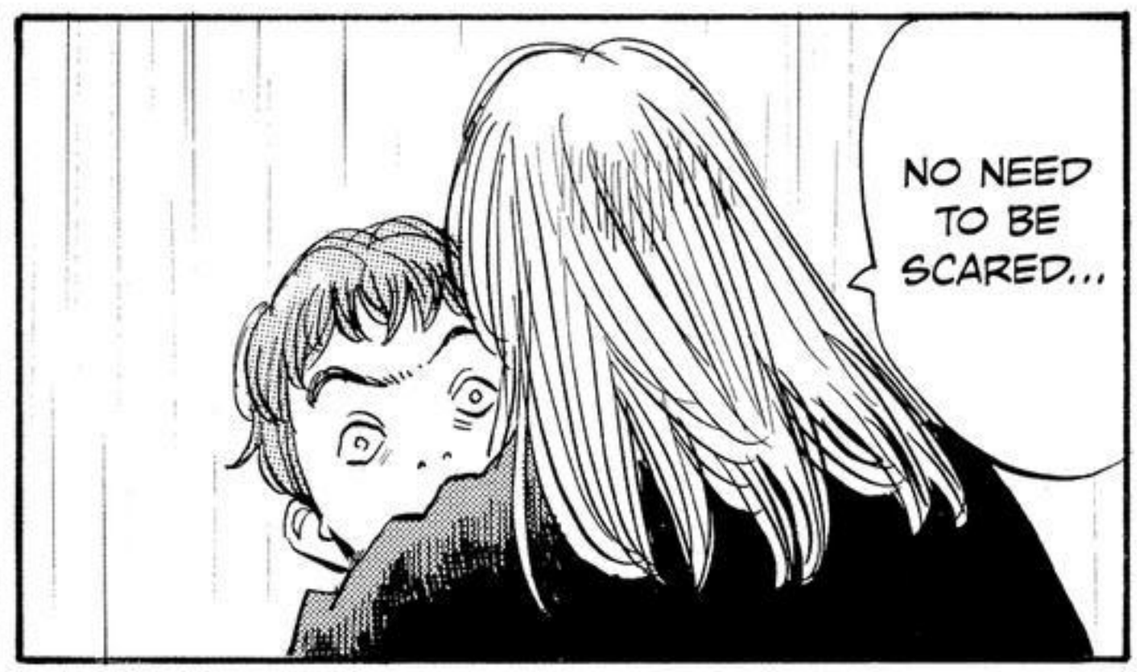
BORA...

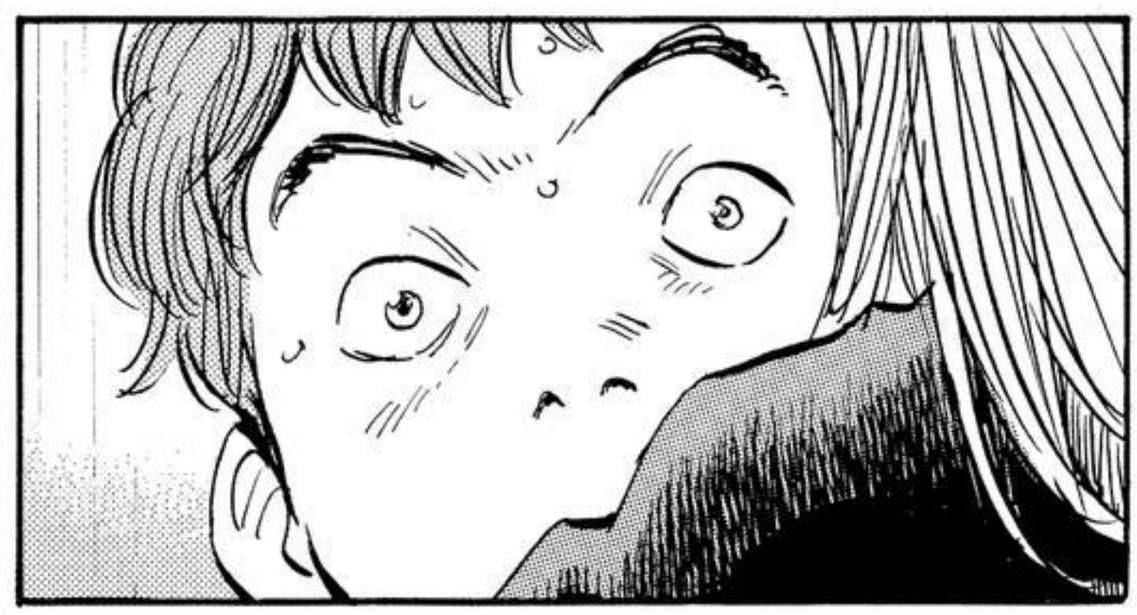

WHAT'S THE MATTER?


DON'T WORRY... THERE'S NO WAR HERE...
BORA...



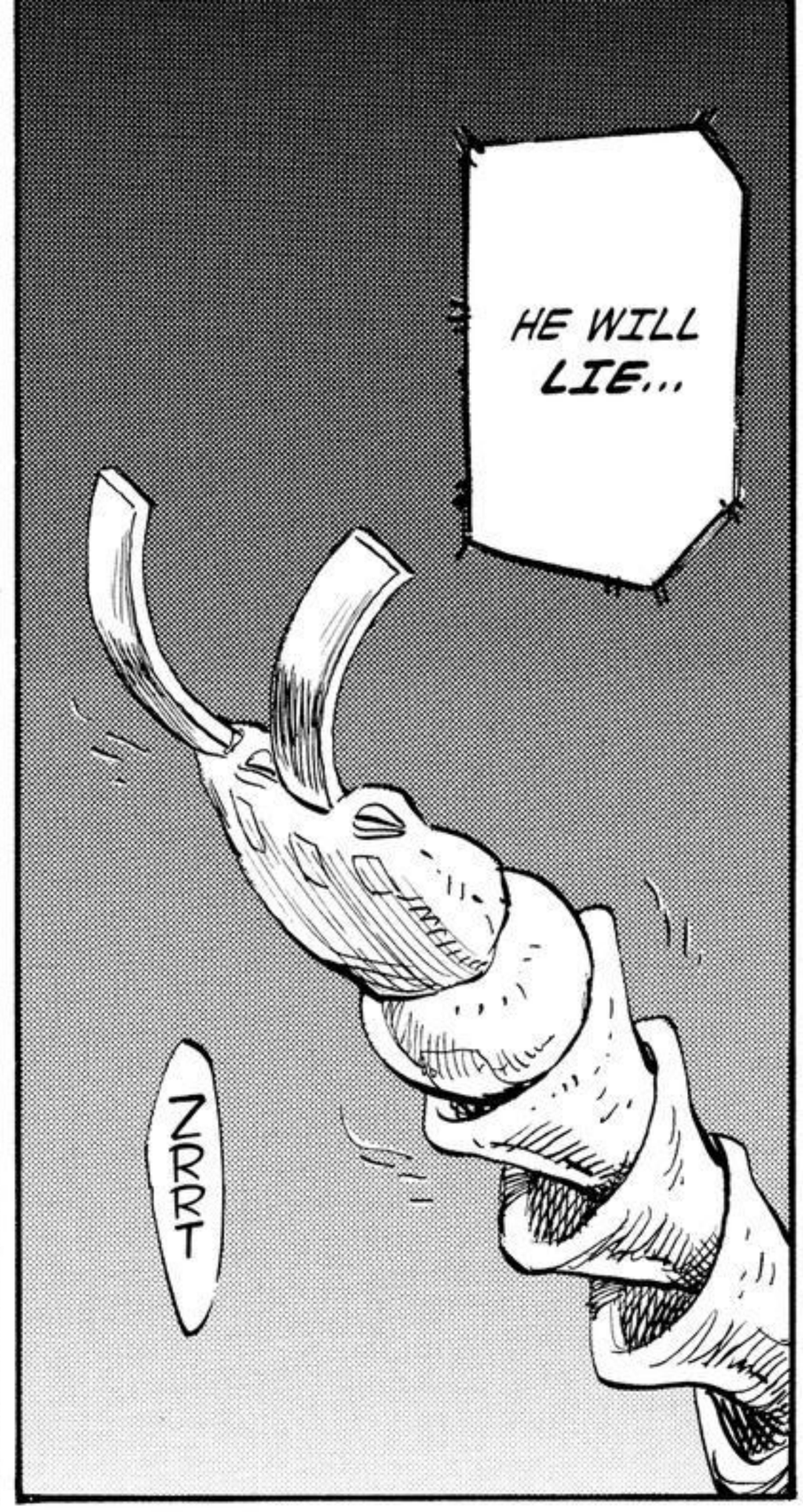

BORA...


NO NEED TO BE SCARED...

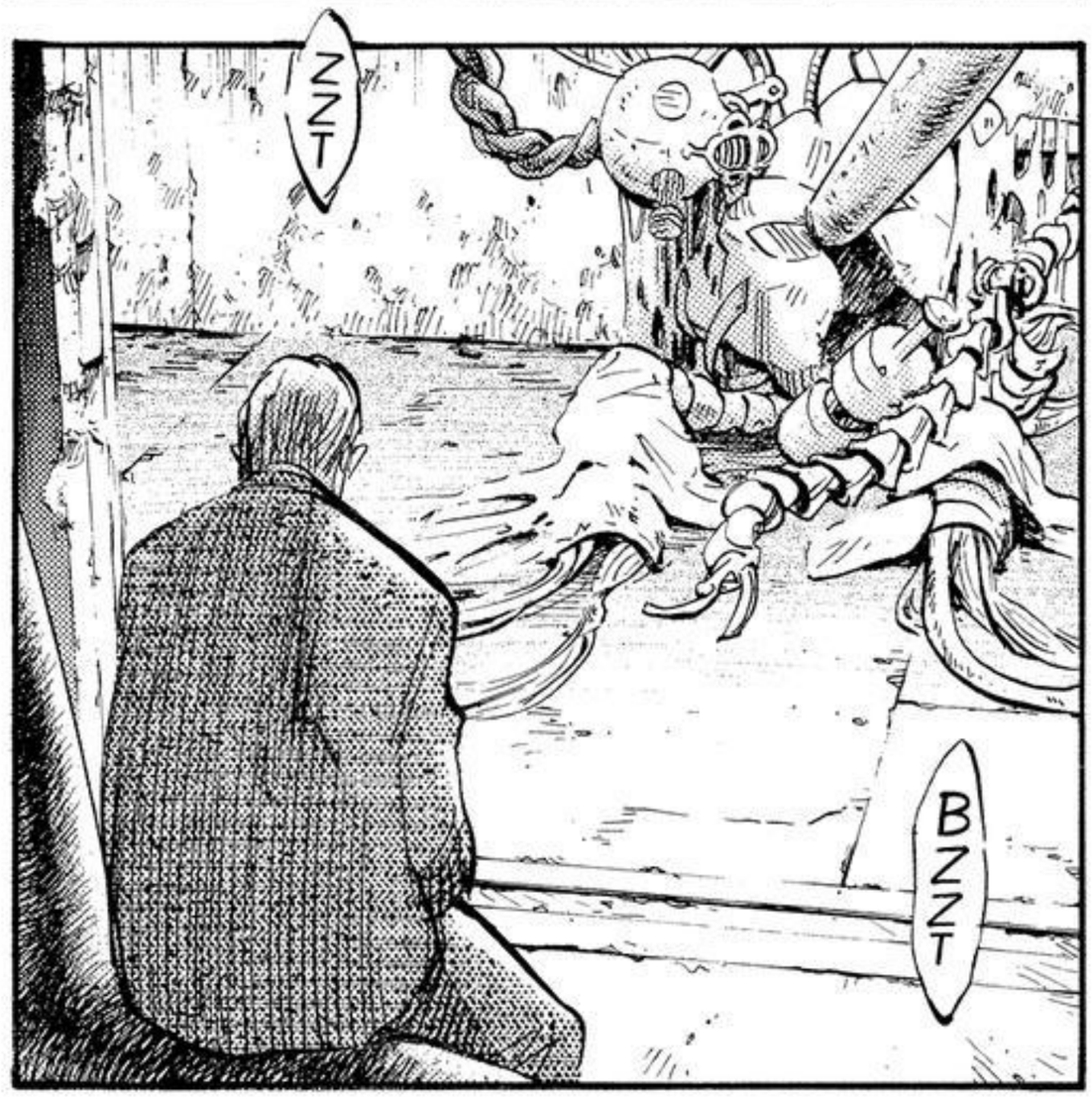


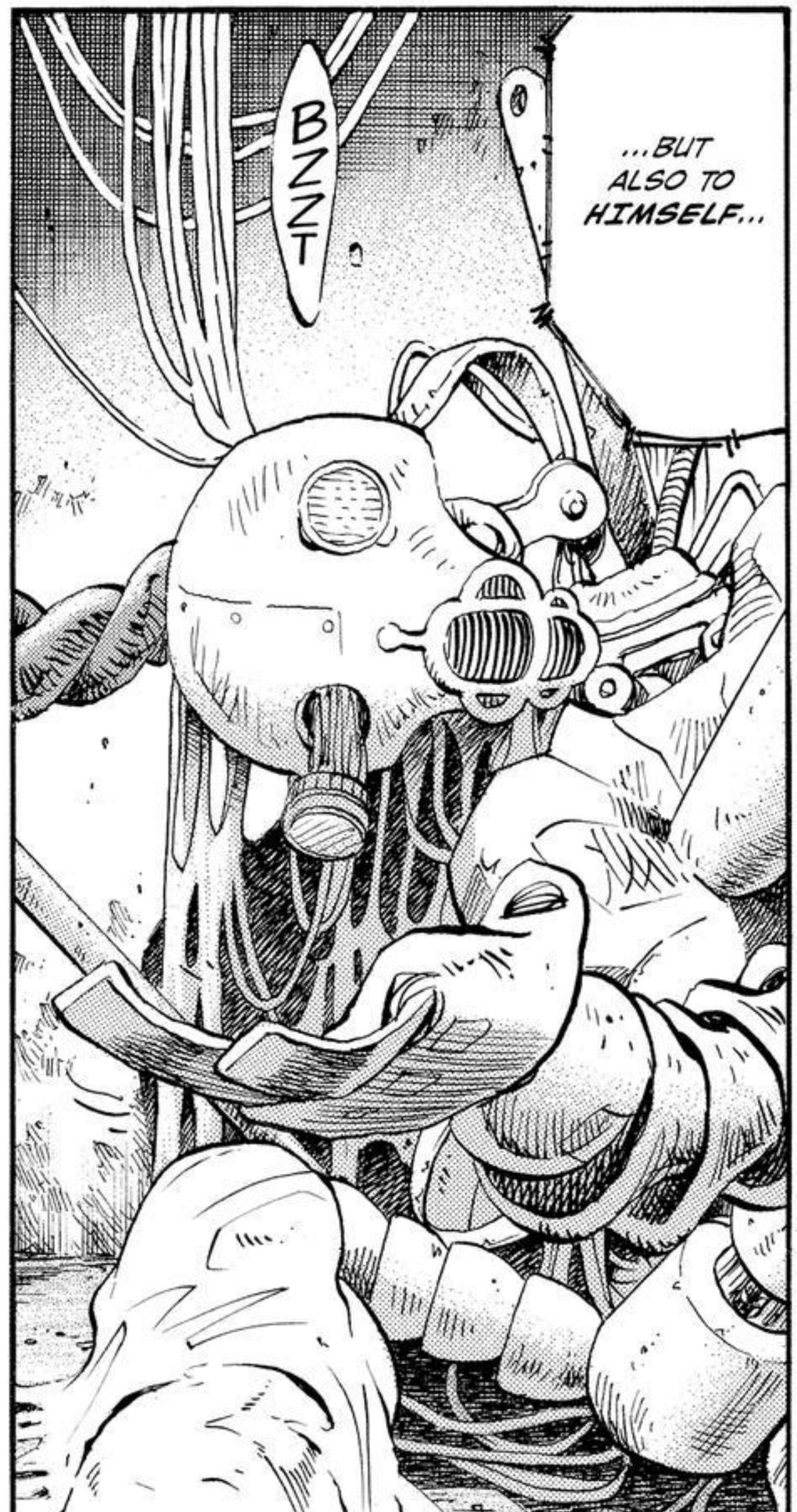
LIE?

ONCE SUCH A ROBOT GAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE WILL LIE...
TO OTHERS, OF COURSE...
BZZT

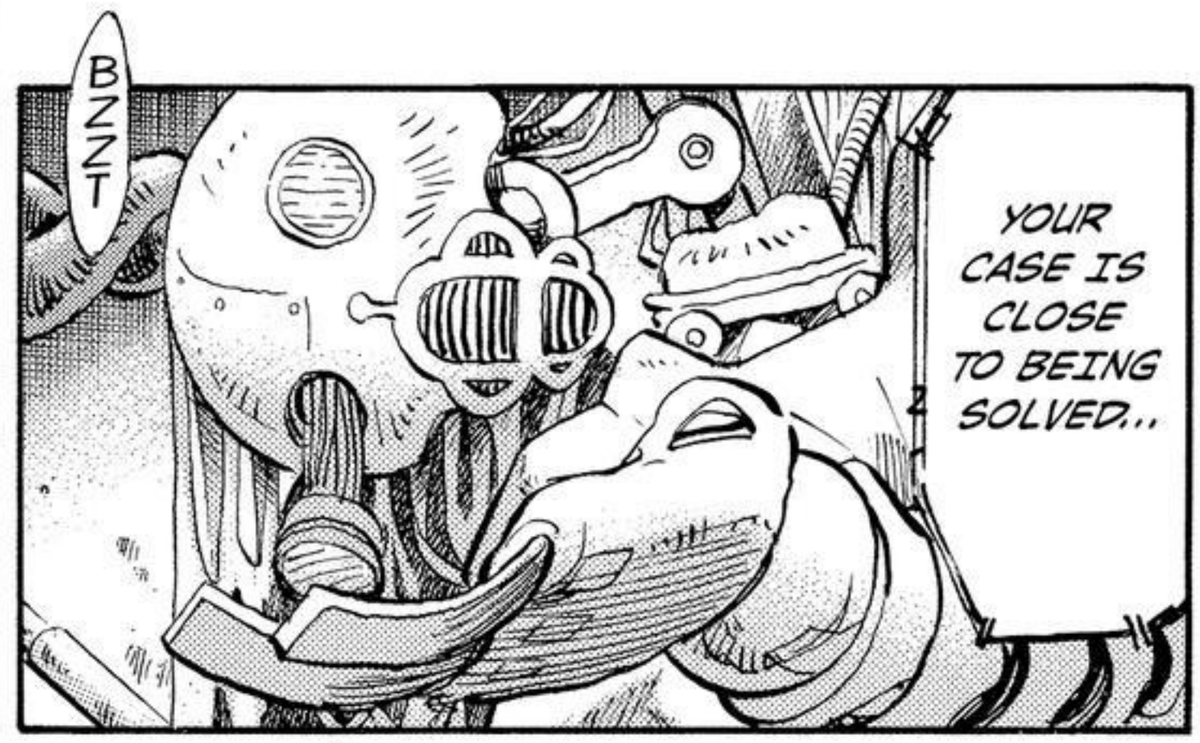

HE WILL LIE...
ZRRT

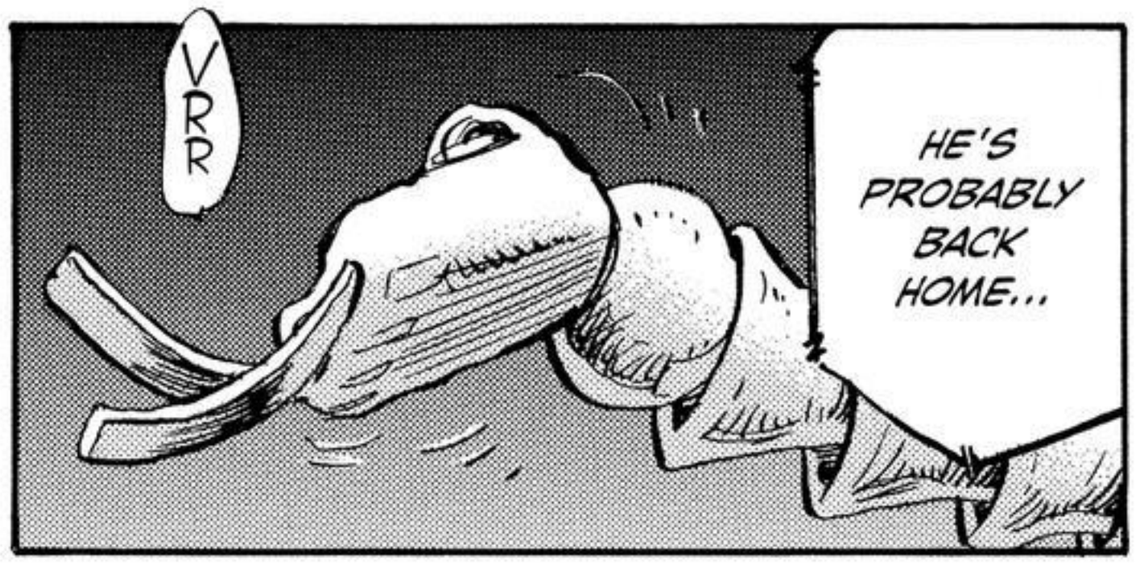
...


ZZT
BZZT

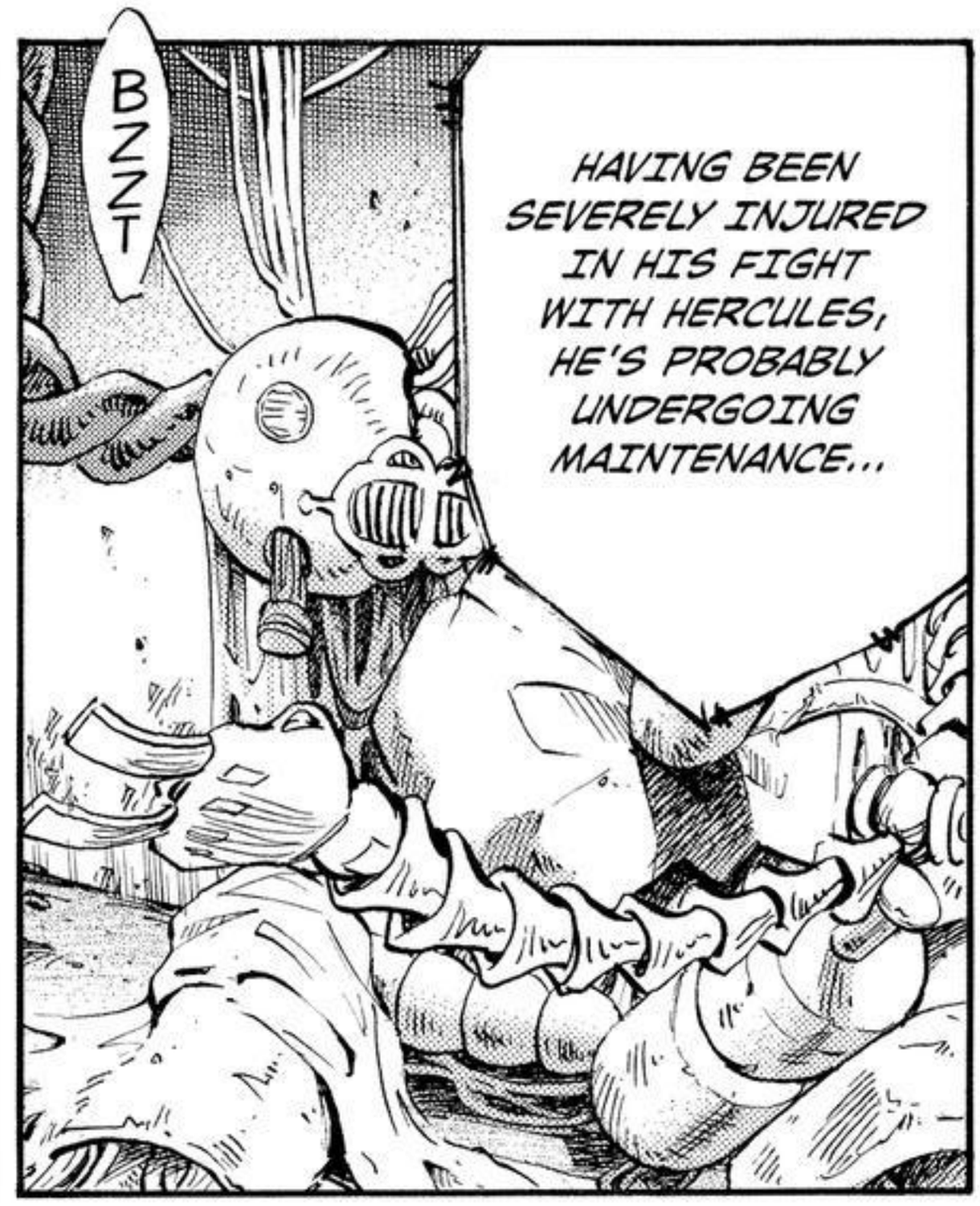

BZZT
...BUT ALSO TO HIMSELF...

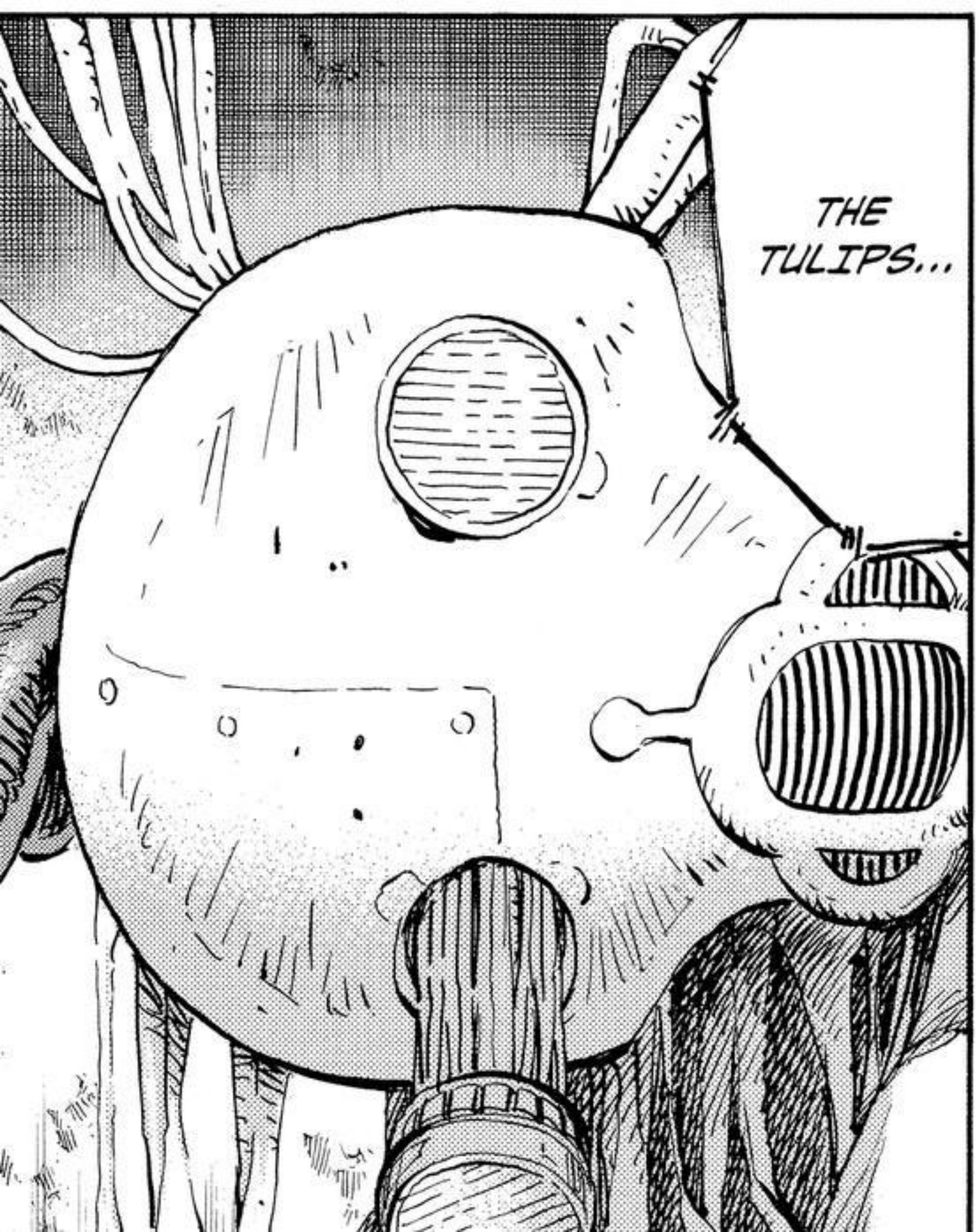
WHAT ABOUT PLUTO?
WHERE IS HE NOW?

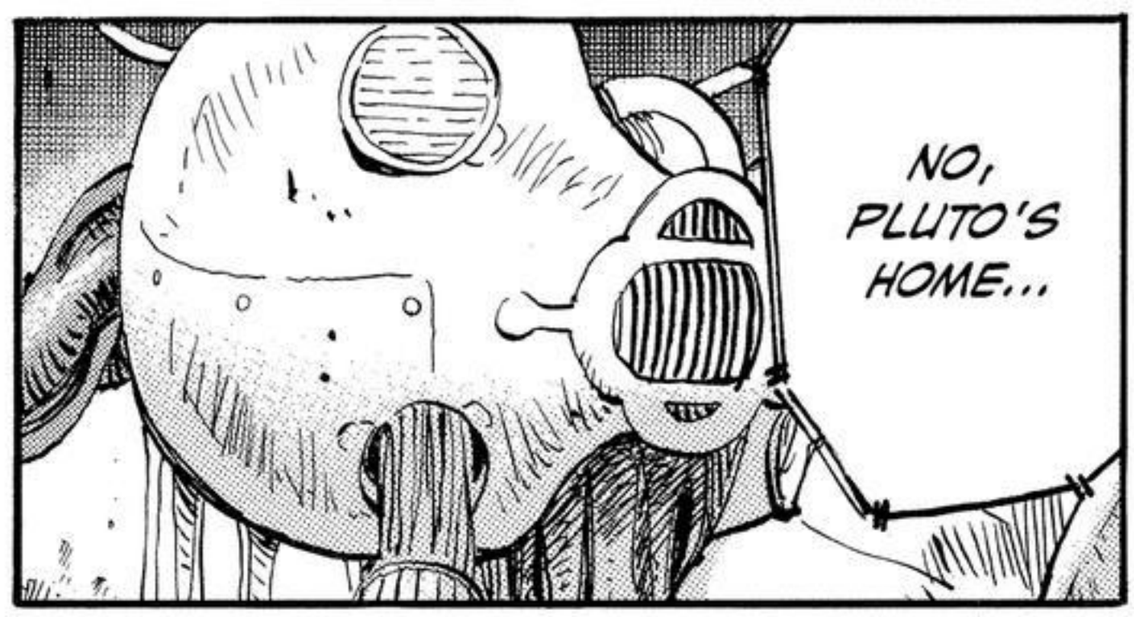

BZZT
YOUR CASE IS CLOSE TO BEING SOLVED...

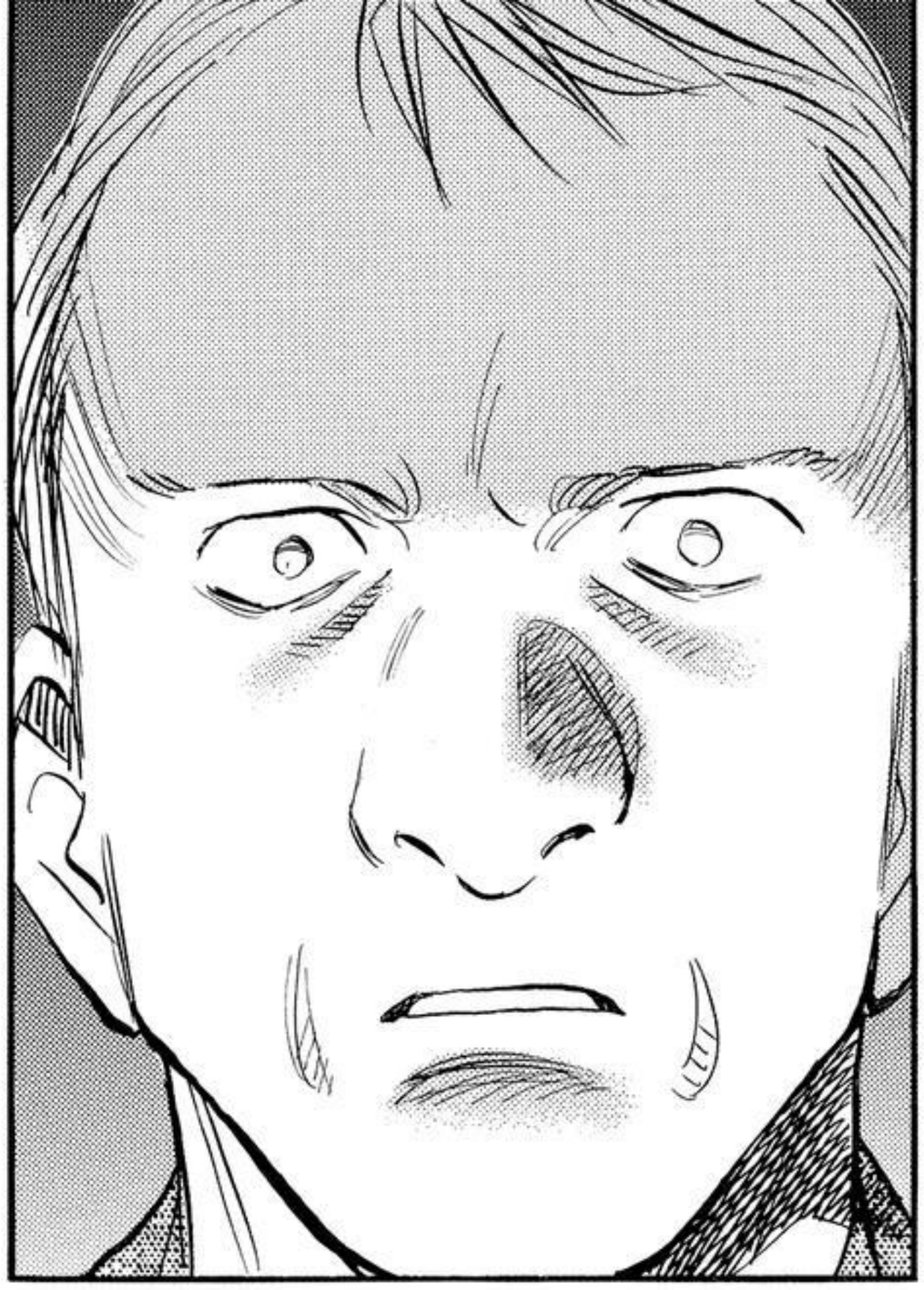

VRR
HE'S PROBABLY BACK HOME...

WHERE SAHAD LIVES? IN PERSIA?
BACK HOME?

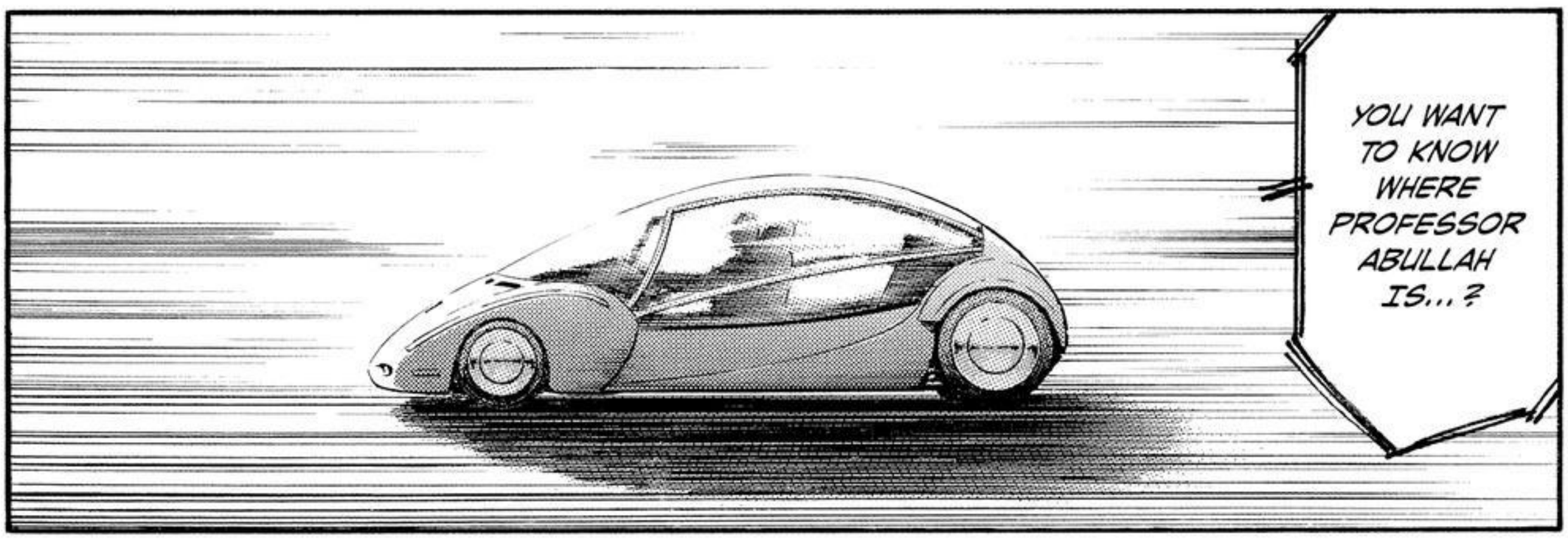

BZZT
HAVING BEEN SEVERELY INJURED IN HIS FIGHT WITH HERCULES, HE'S PROBABLY UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE...

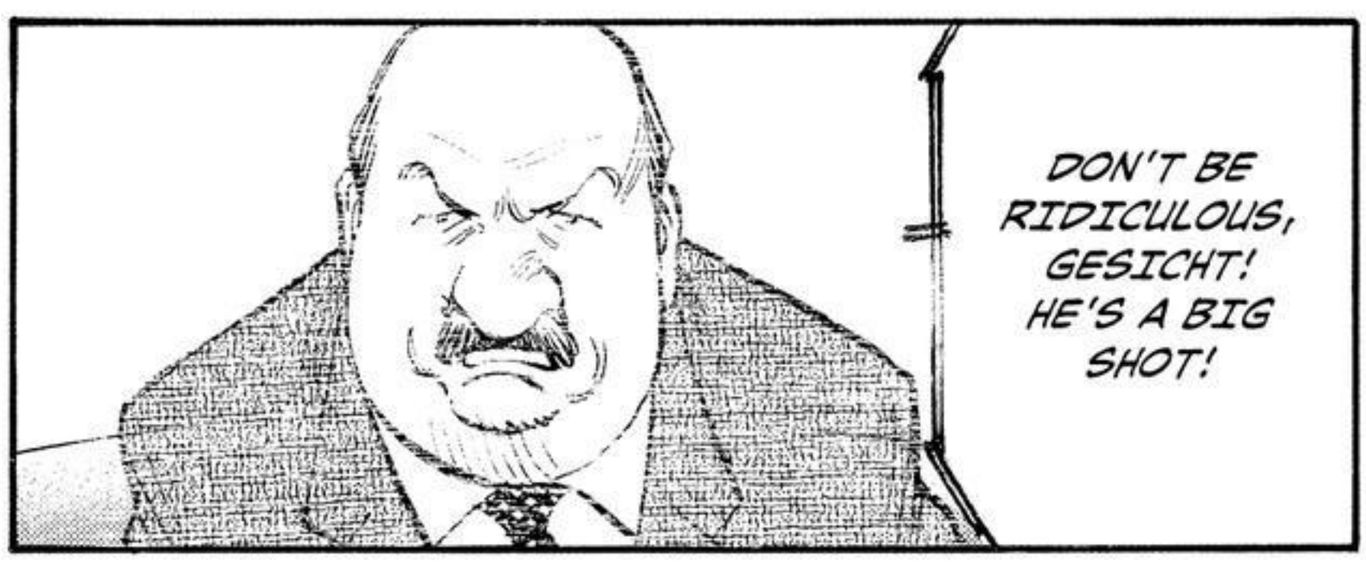

THE TULIPS...


NO, PLUTO'S HOME...



...!!


YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE PROFESSOR ABULLAH IS...?

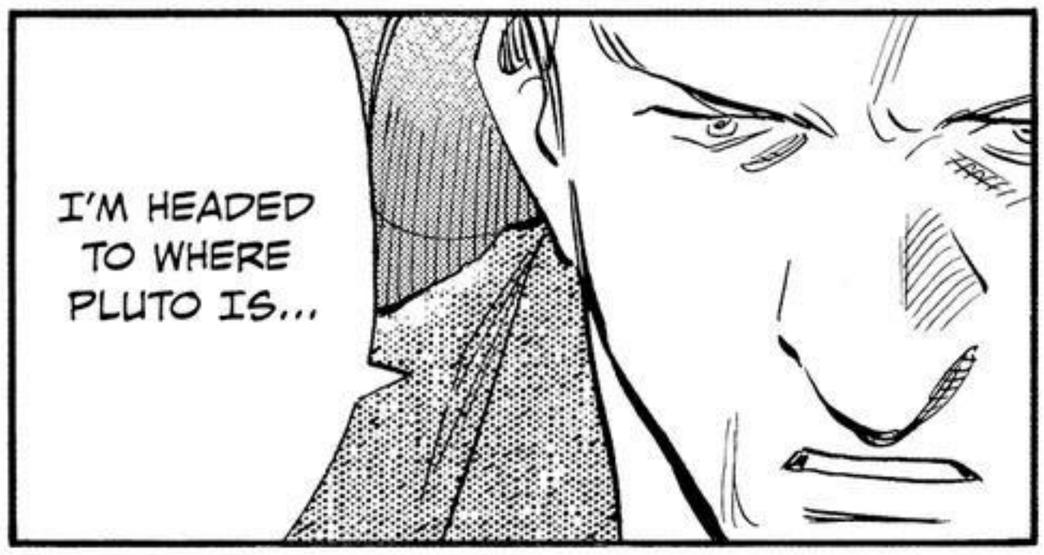

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, GESICHT! HE'S A BIG SHOT!

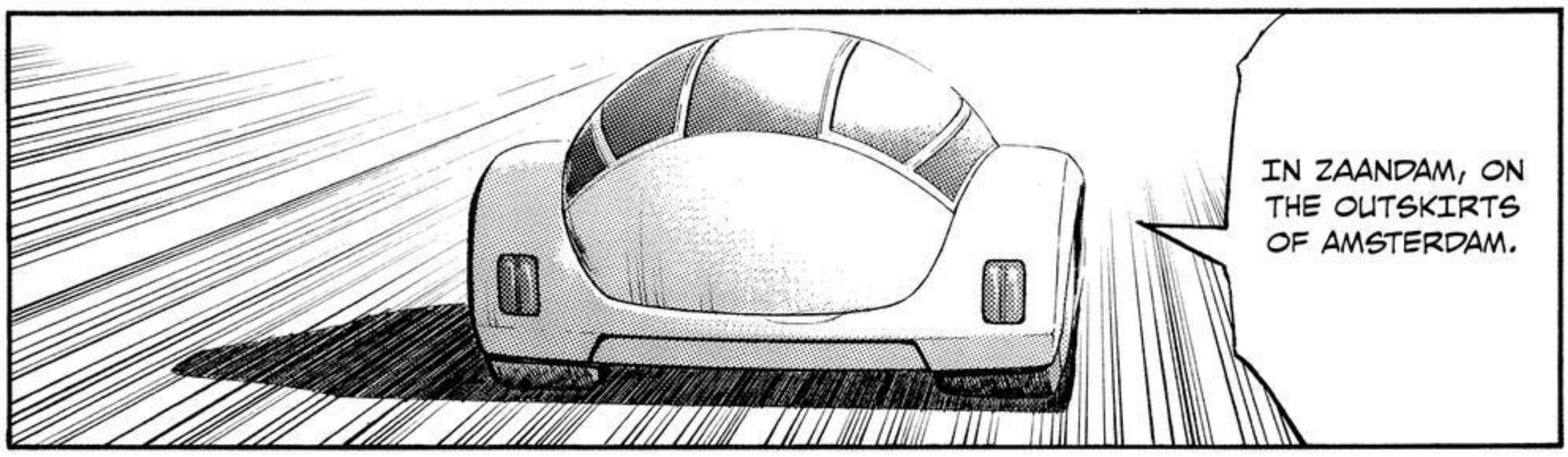
I DON'T CARE. FIND OUT WHERE HE IS!

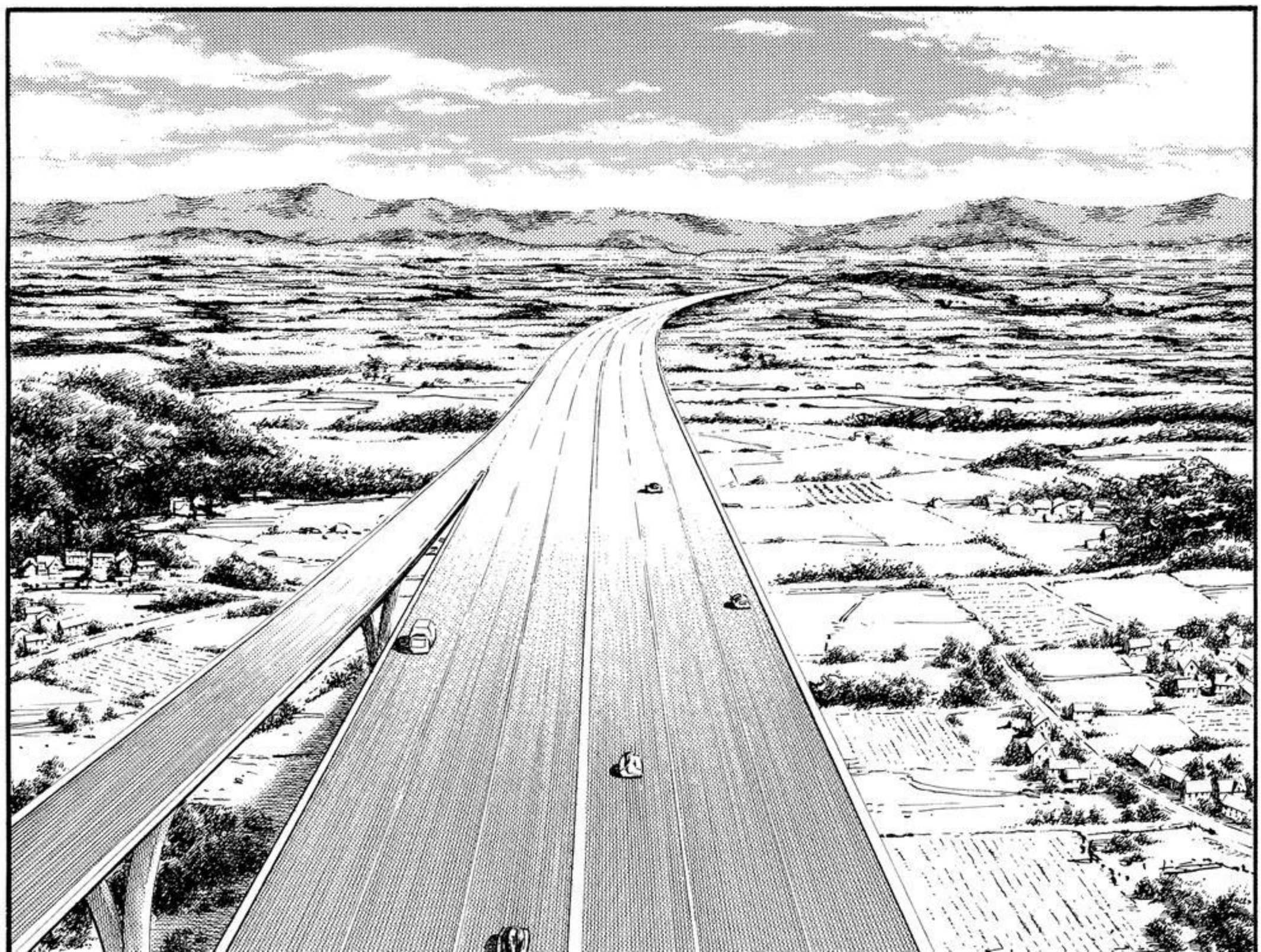
YES! YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY RIGHT AWAY!

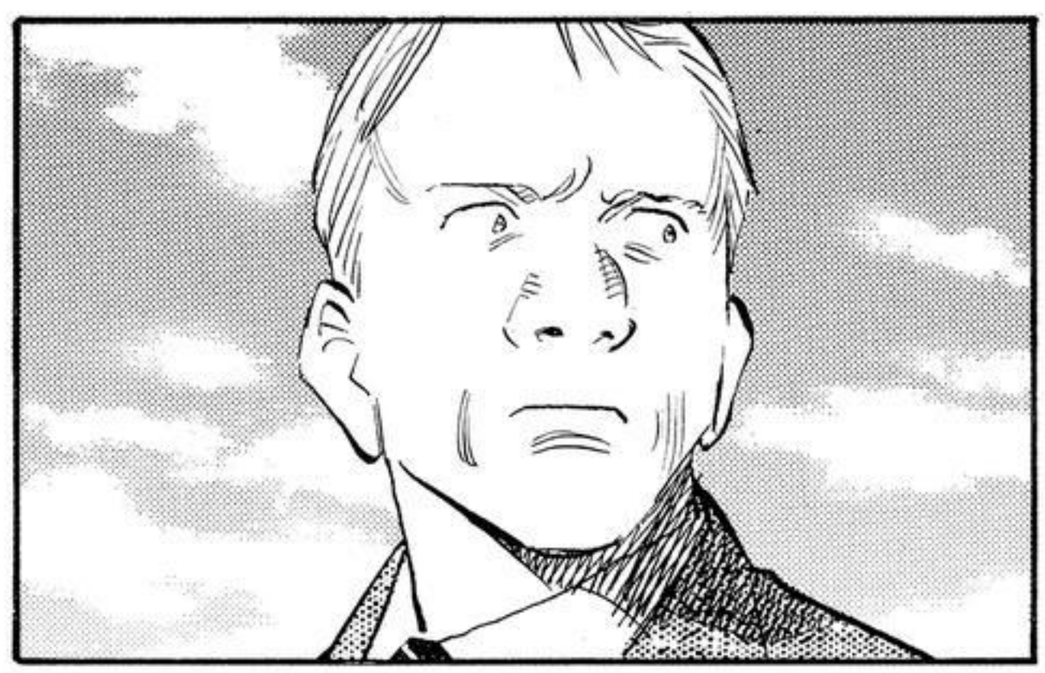
PLUTO...? WHERE...?

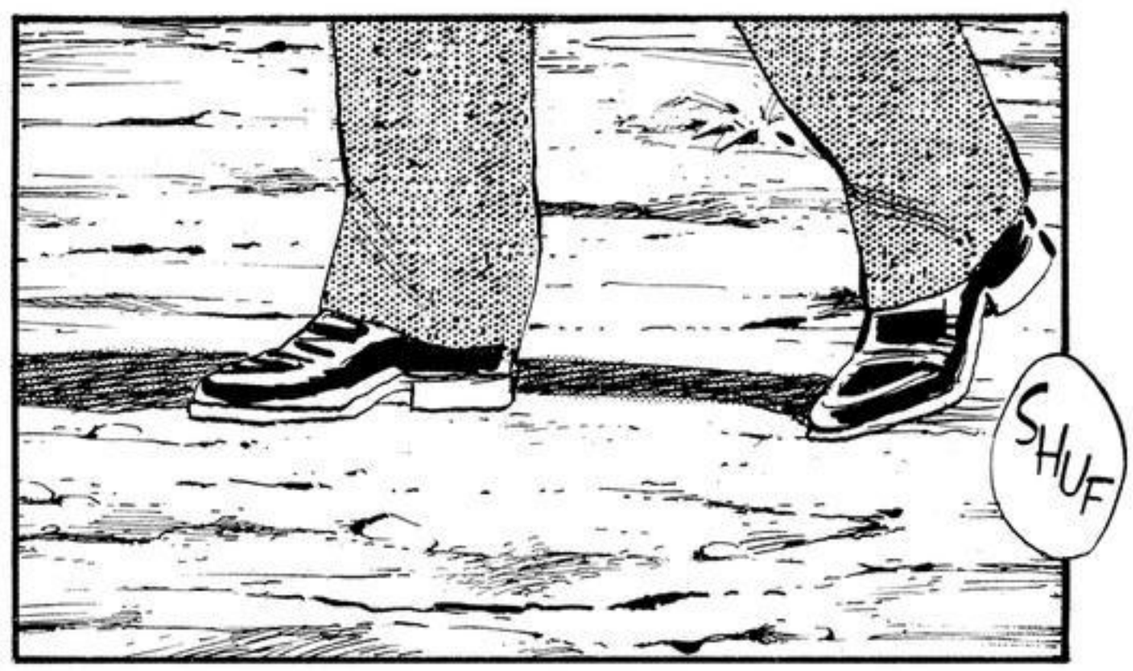
THE PERSIAN MONARCHY HAD AN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITY IN THE NETHER-LANDS...

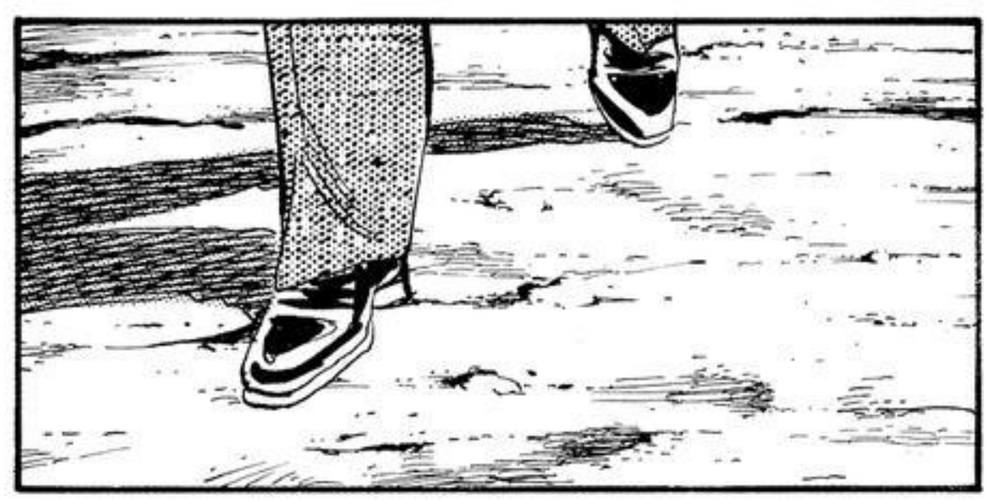


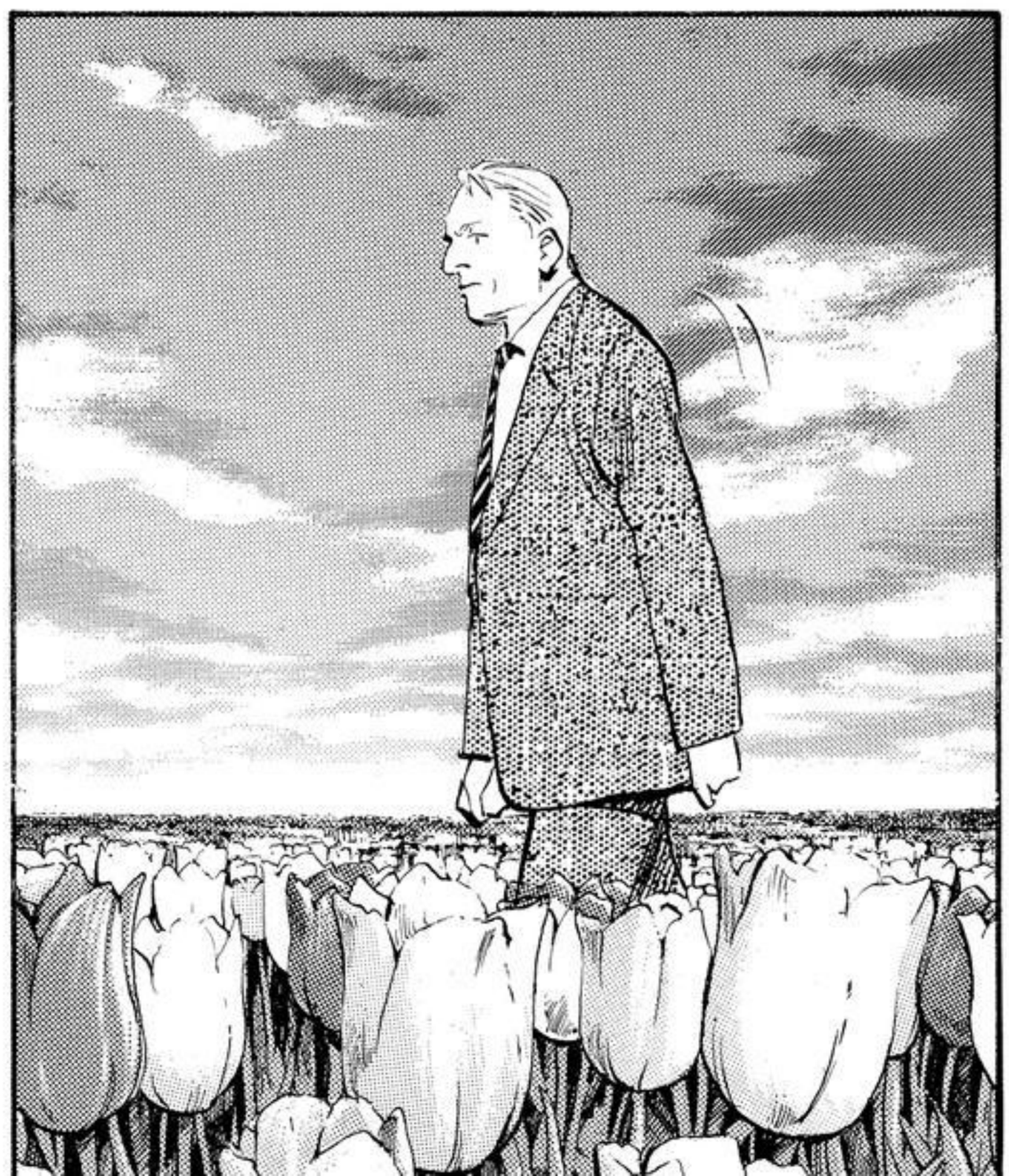




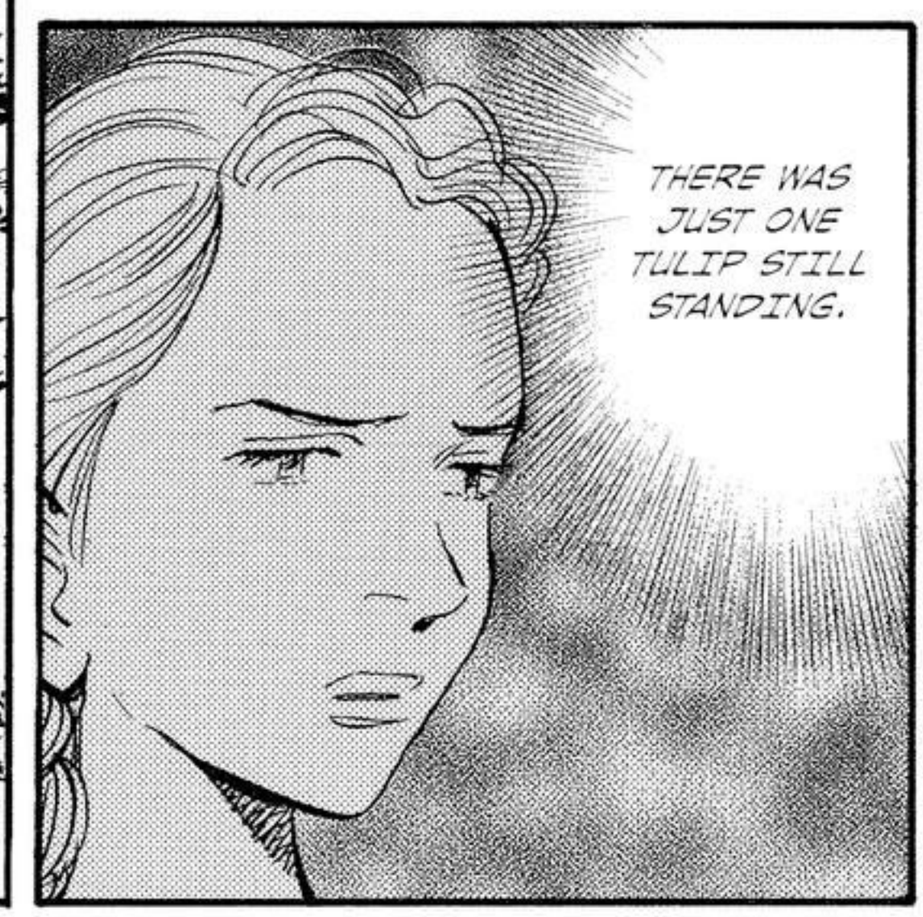



SHUF

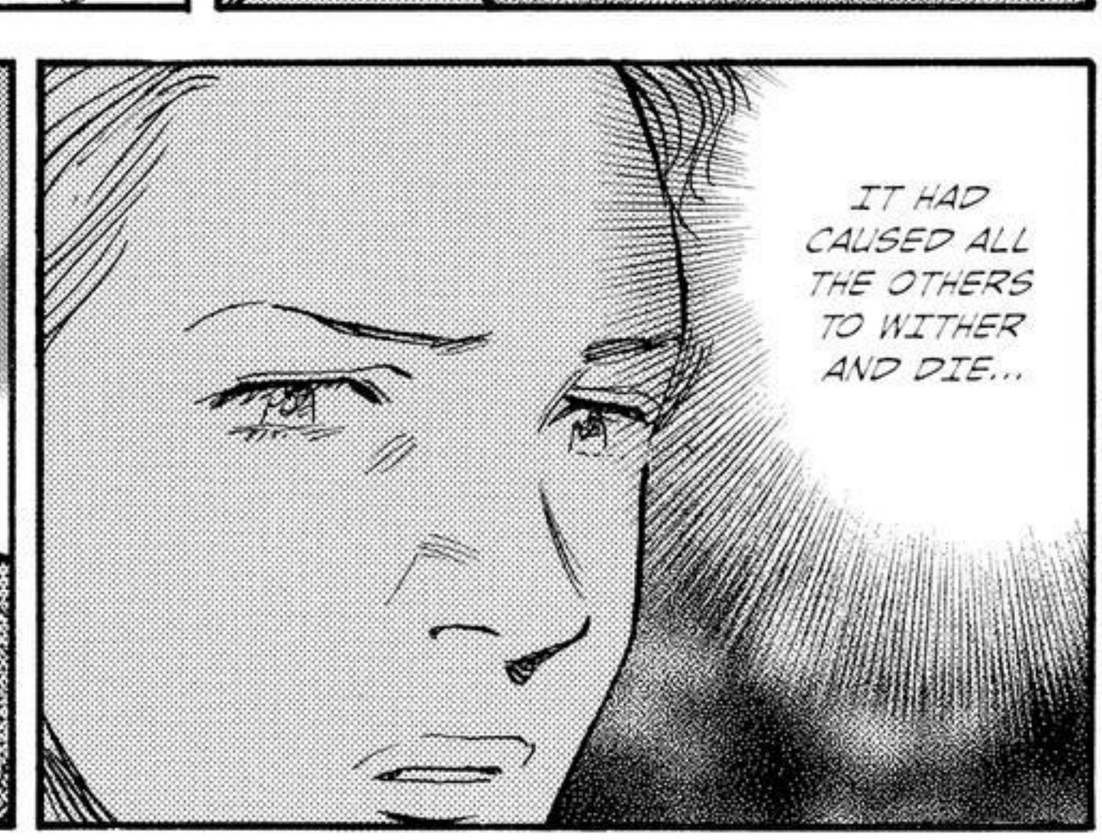




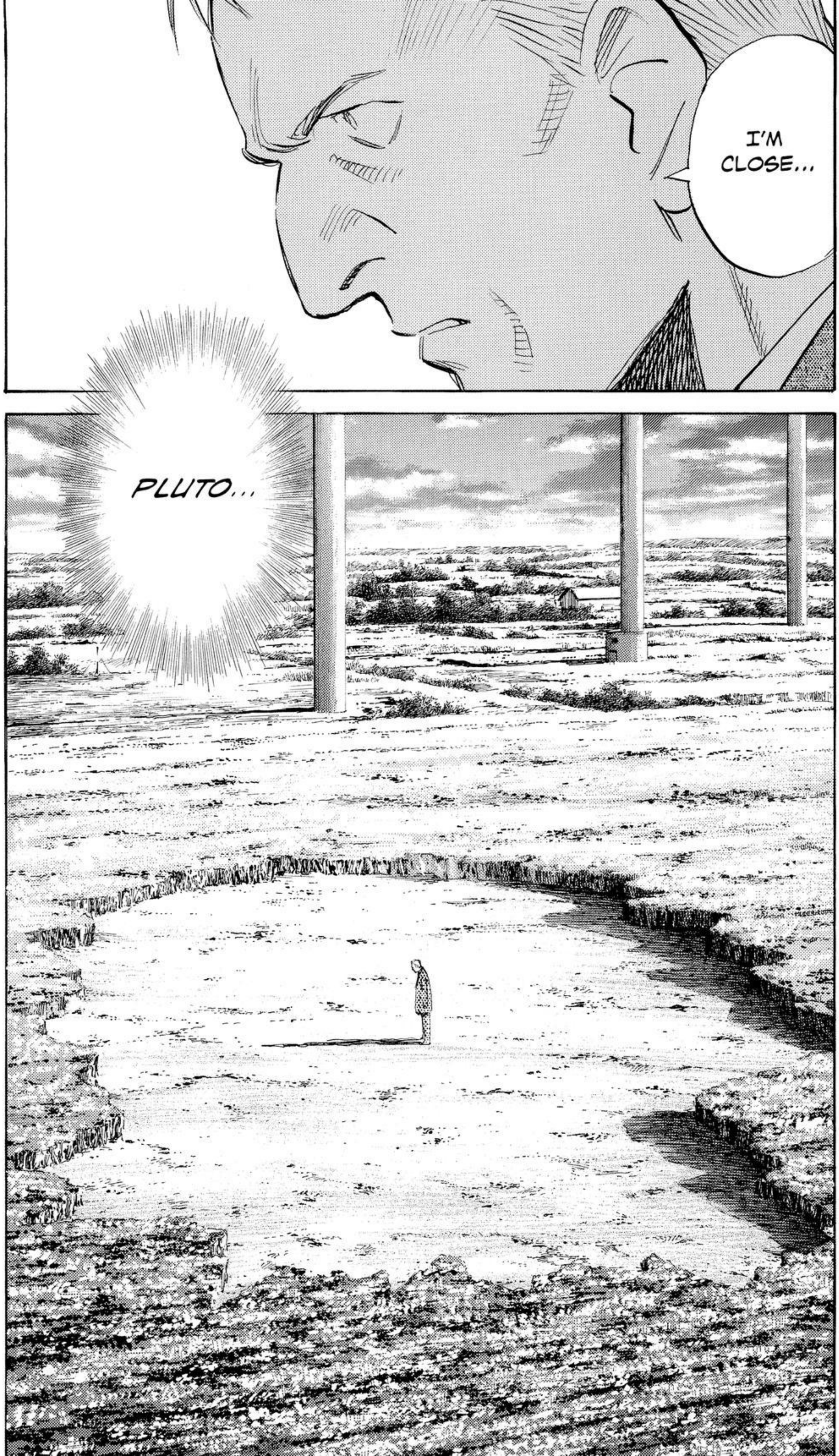
SHUF


THERE WAS JUST ONE TULIP STILL STANDING.

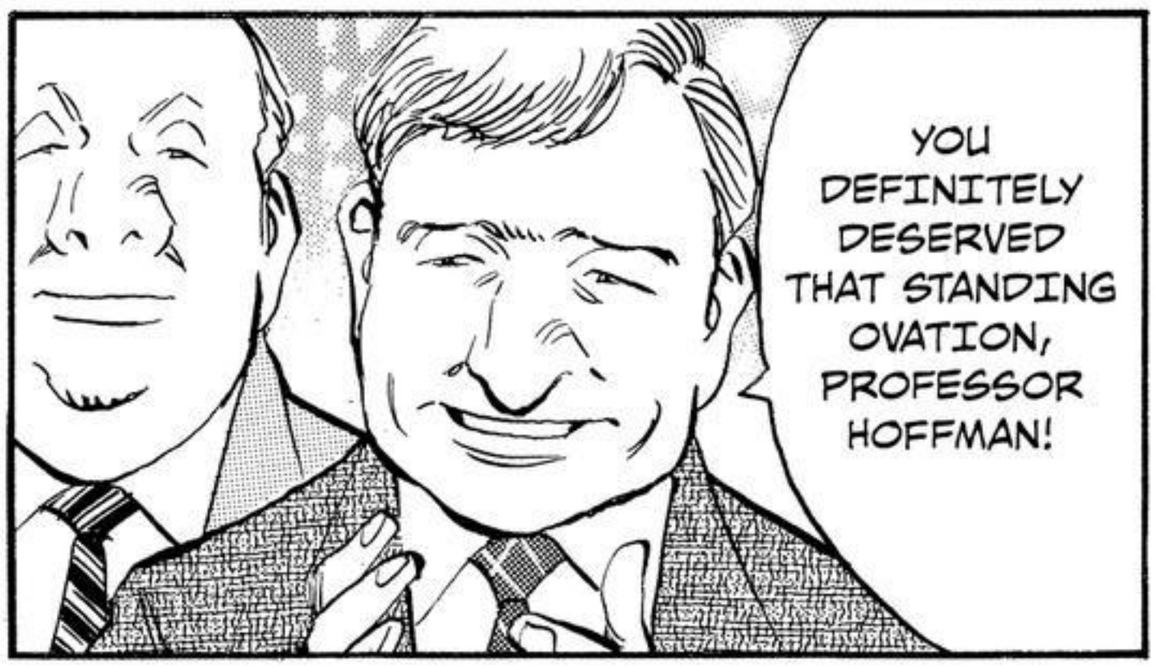
SHUF

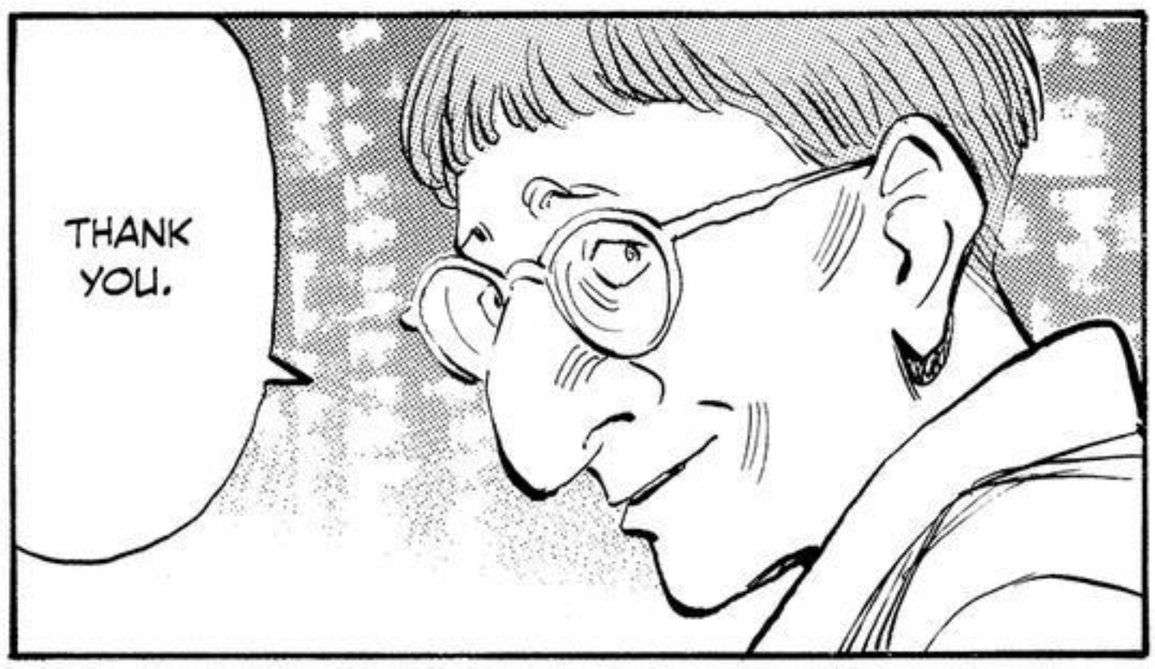

IT HAD CAUSED ALL THE OTHERS TO WITHER AND DIE...

ITS NAME WAS...


I'M CLOSE...
PLUTO...

Act 43 AN ENCOUNTER WITH DEATH


YOU DEFINITELY DESERVED THAT STANDING OVATION, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN!


THANK YOU.

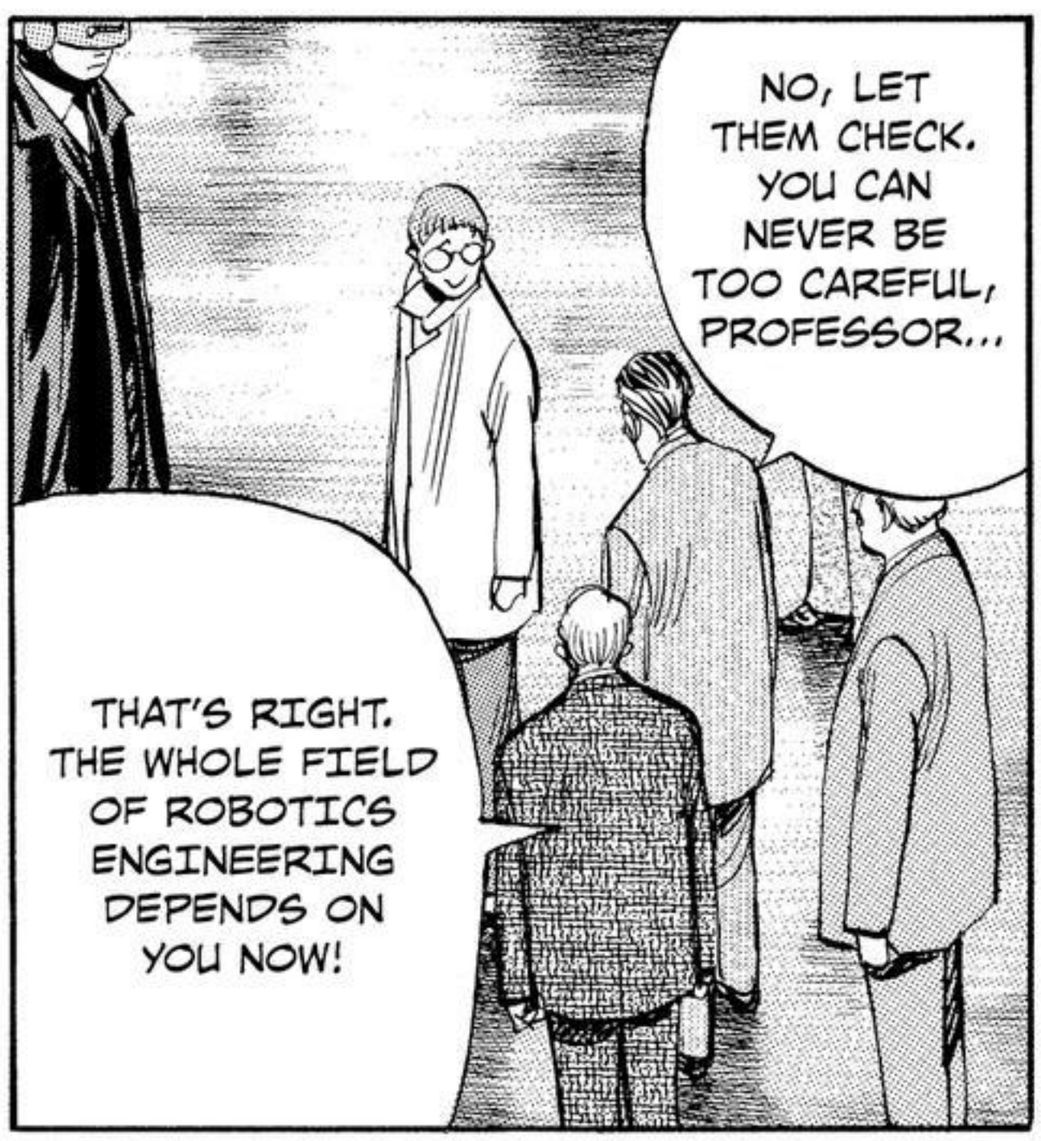
ESPECIALLY THE PART ABOUT POTENTIALLY PEACEFUL USES OF ZERONIUM ALLOY...

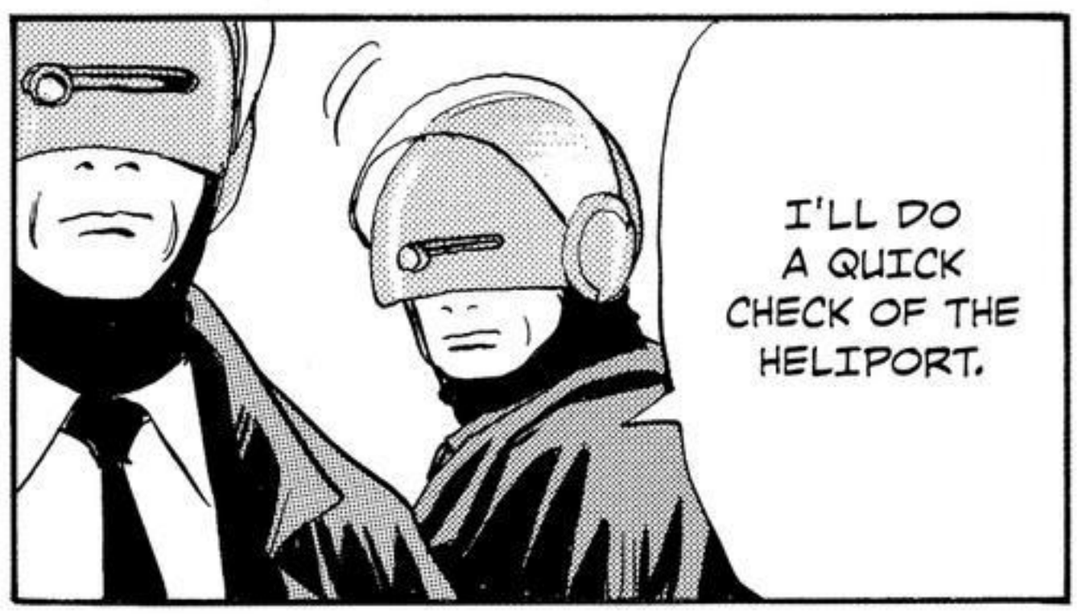
AND THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON THAT WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK AT OUR EUROPEAN ROBOTICS CONFERENCE.
WE KNOW THIS HASN'T BEEN AN EASY TIME FOR YOU.

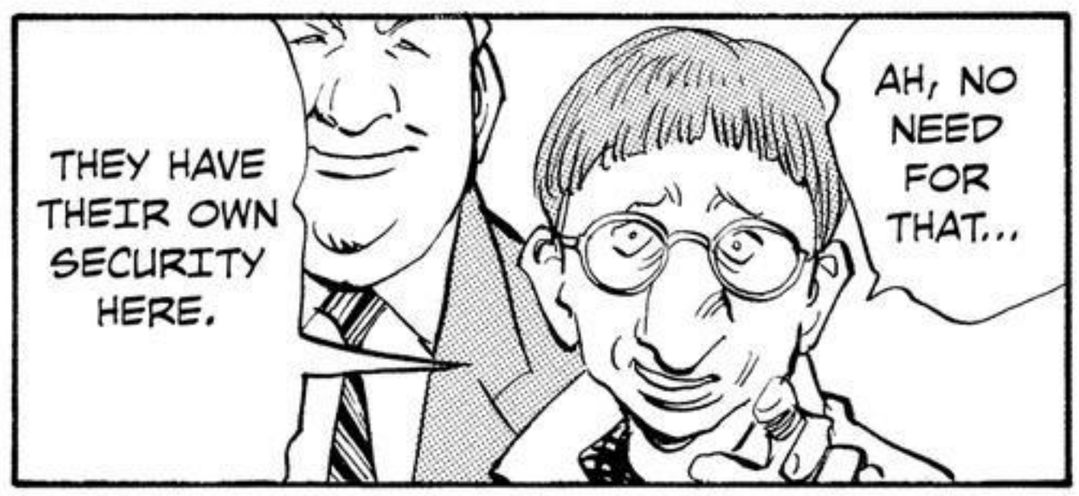
THANK YOU.
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN, YOUR HELICOPTER IS HERE.

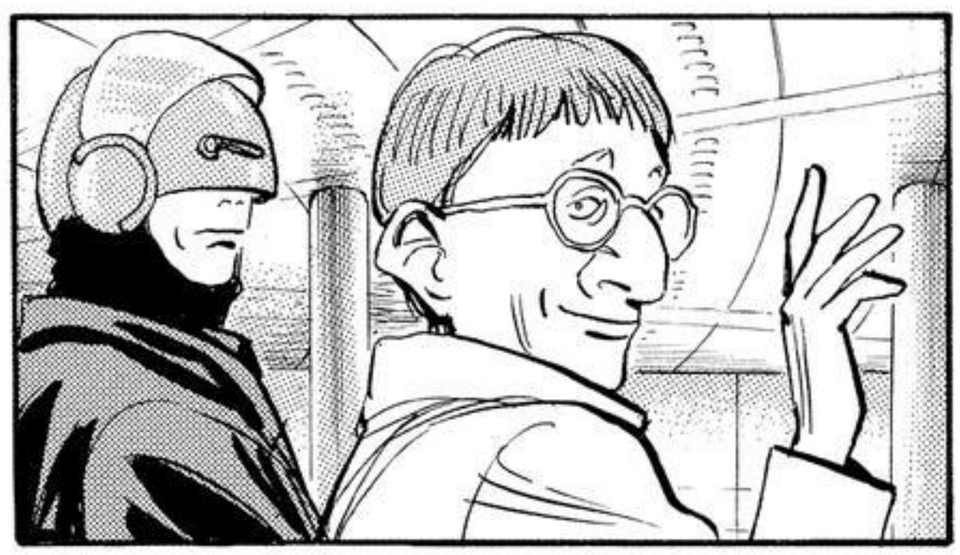
WE HOPE YOU WERE SATISFIED WITH THE SECURITY WE PROVIDED.
WELL, I'M JUST RELIEVED THAT EVERYTHING CAME OFF WITHOUT MISHAP.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THESE TWO BEEFY BODYGUARDS ARE GIVING ME DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICE.



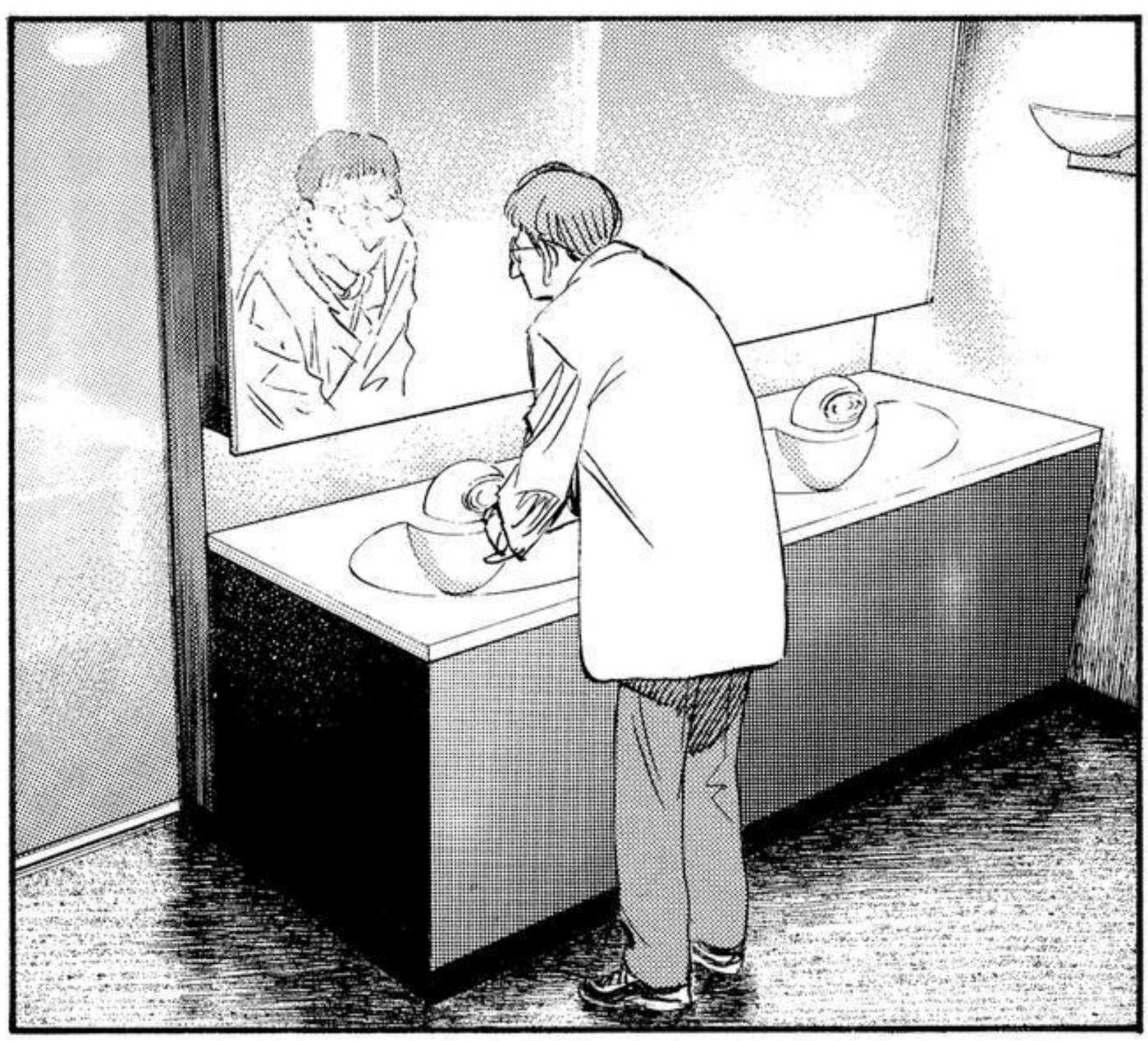


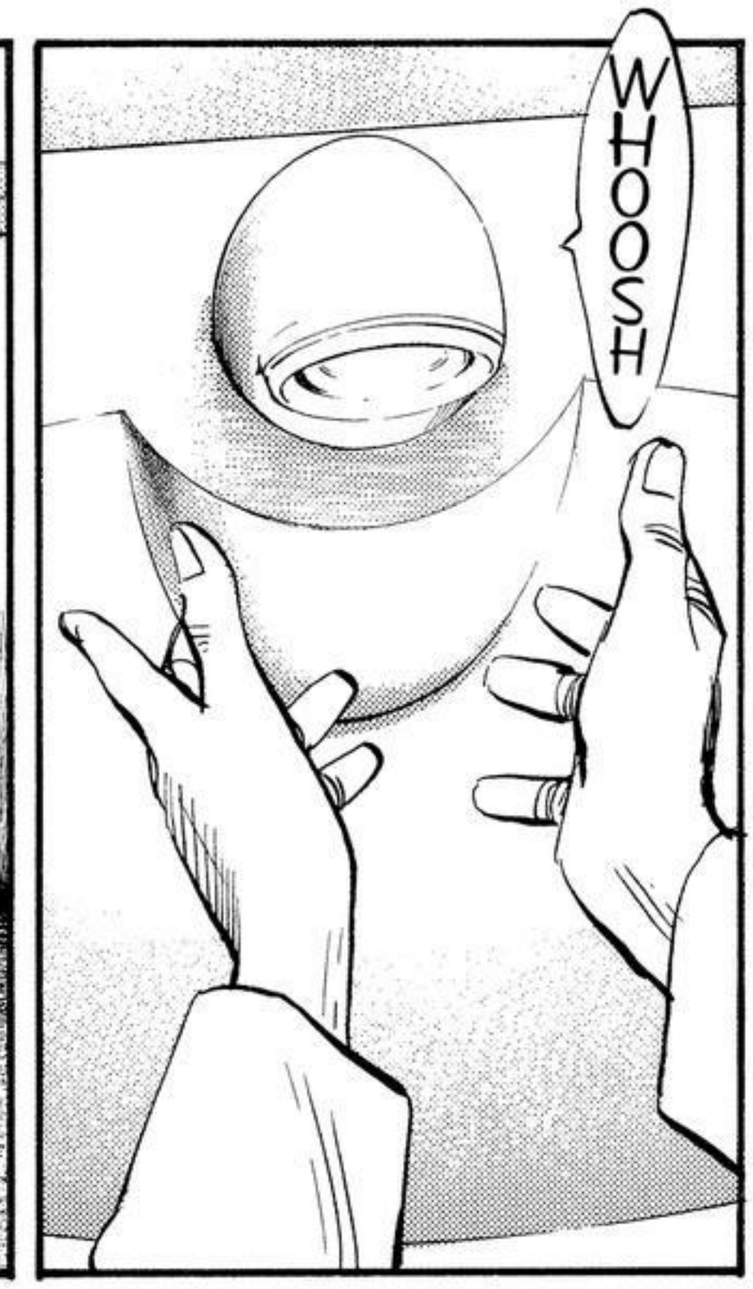




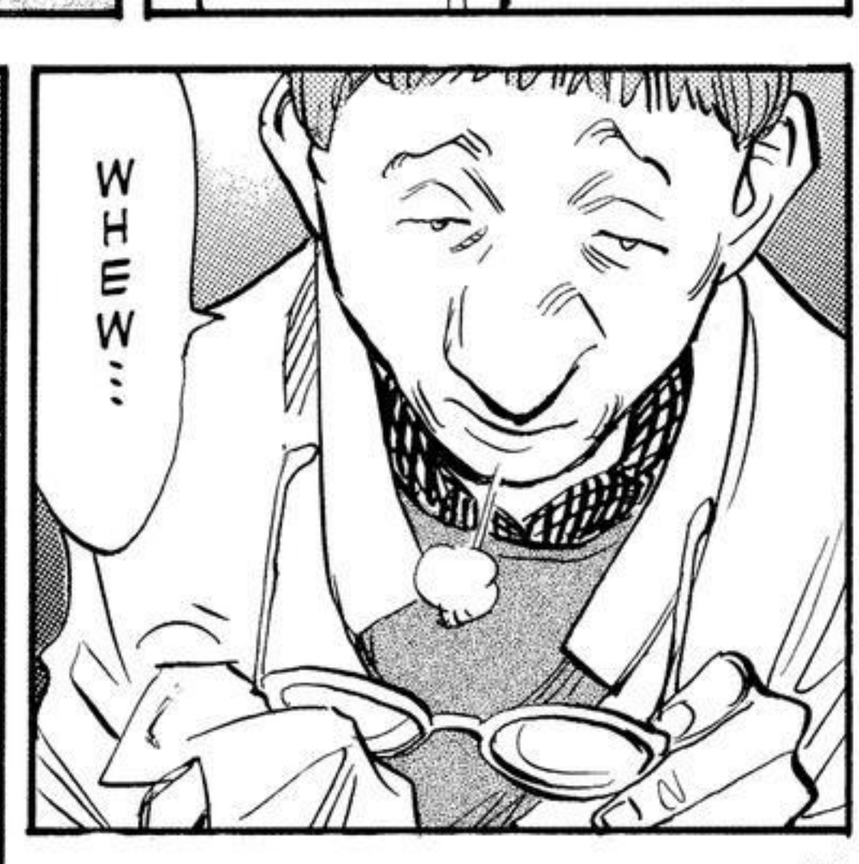
I'VE ALREADY CHECKED IT, SIR...
JUST ONE SEC... FOR THE RESTROOM.

THEN I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF, I ASSUME...

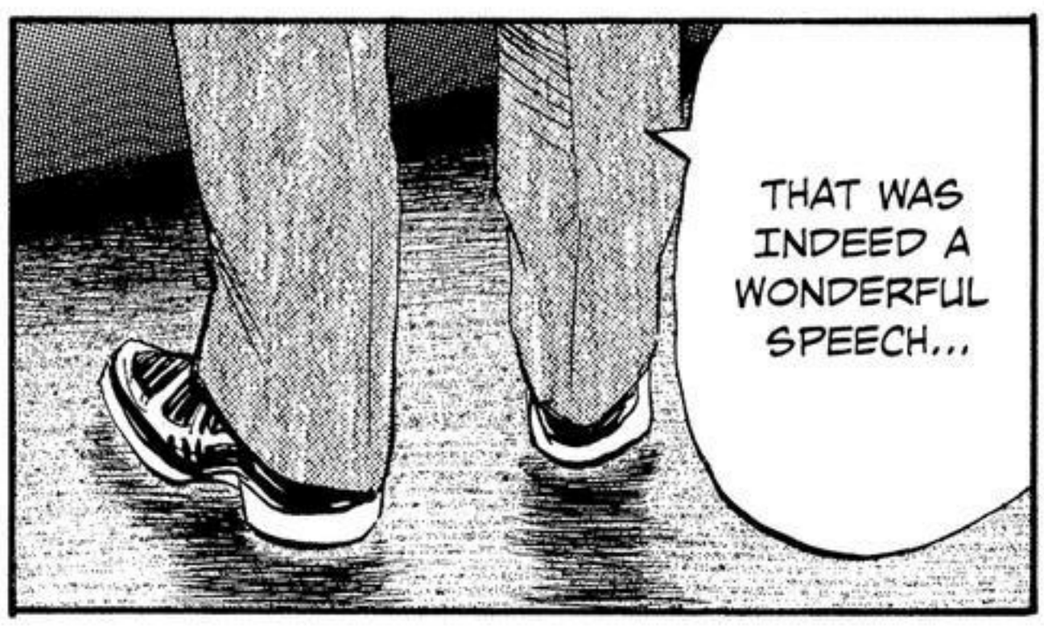



WHOOSH

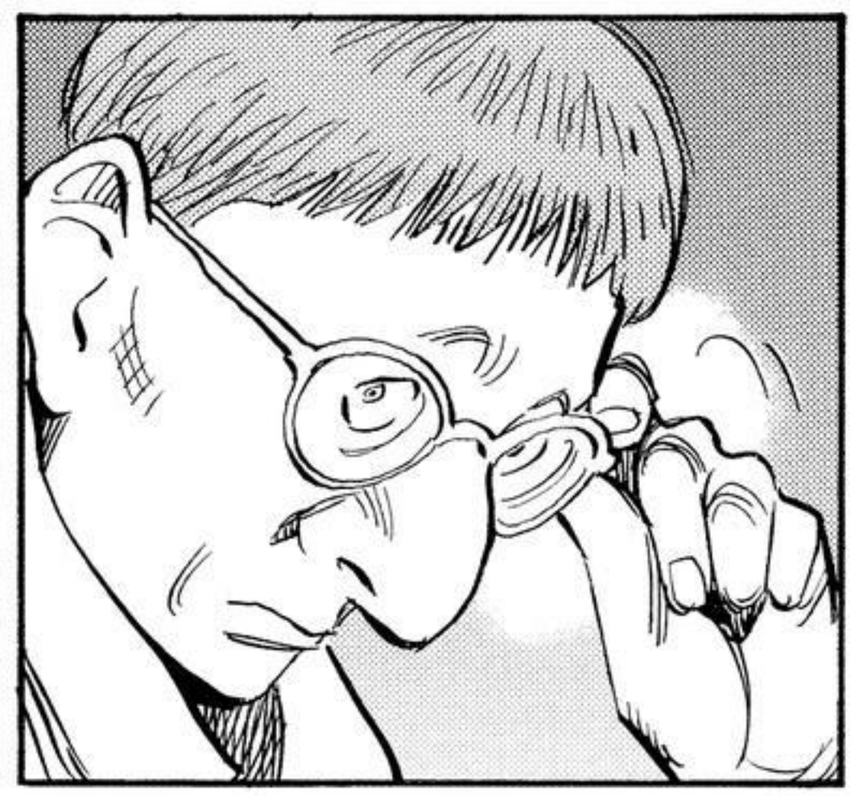
KLAK


WHEW...

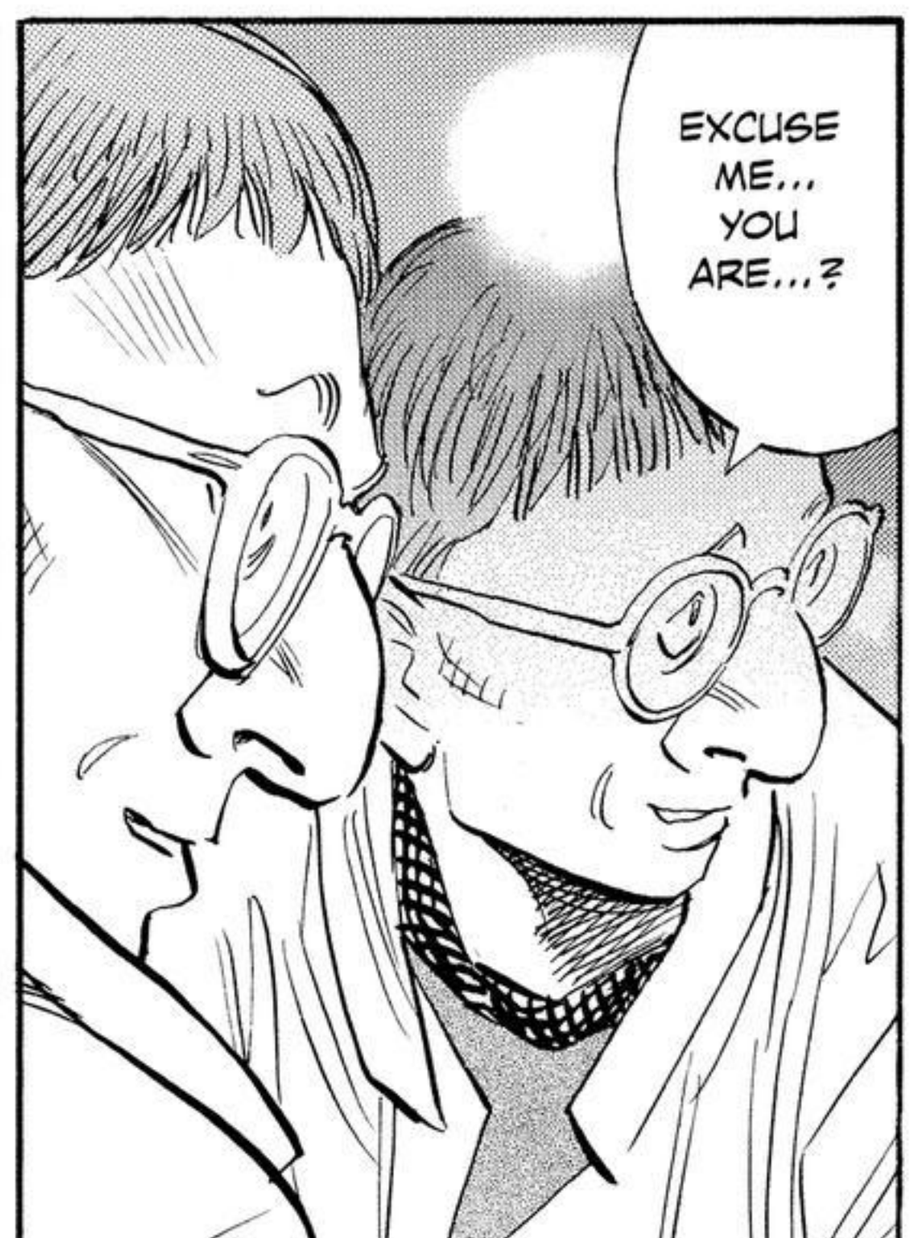
WIOOSH


THAT WAS INDEED A WONDERFUL SPEECH...

I WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR REMARKS ABOUT POTENTIAL USES OF ZERONIUM ALLOY FOR PEACE...

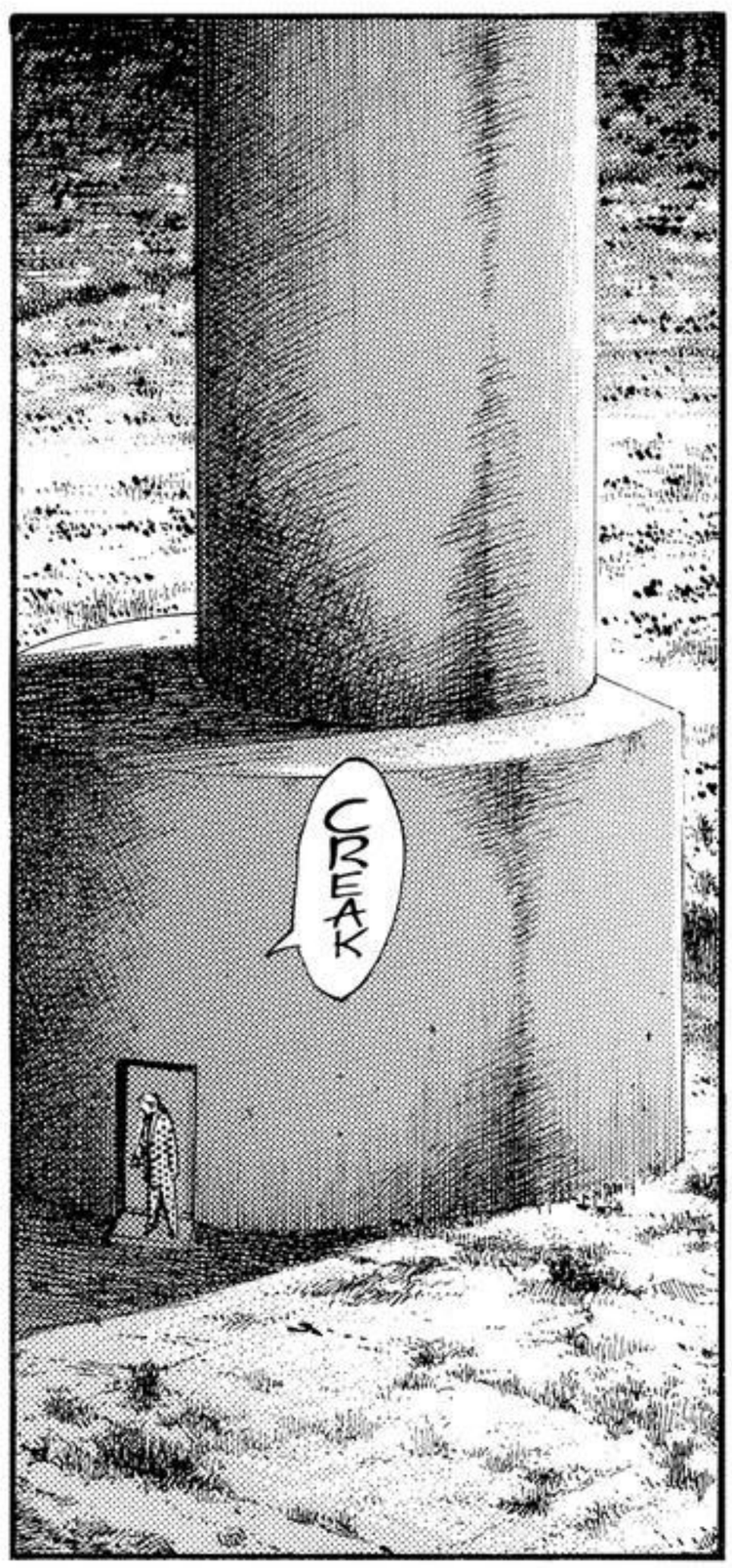


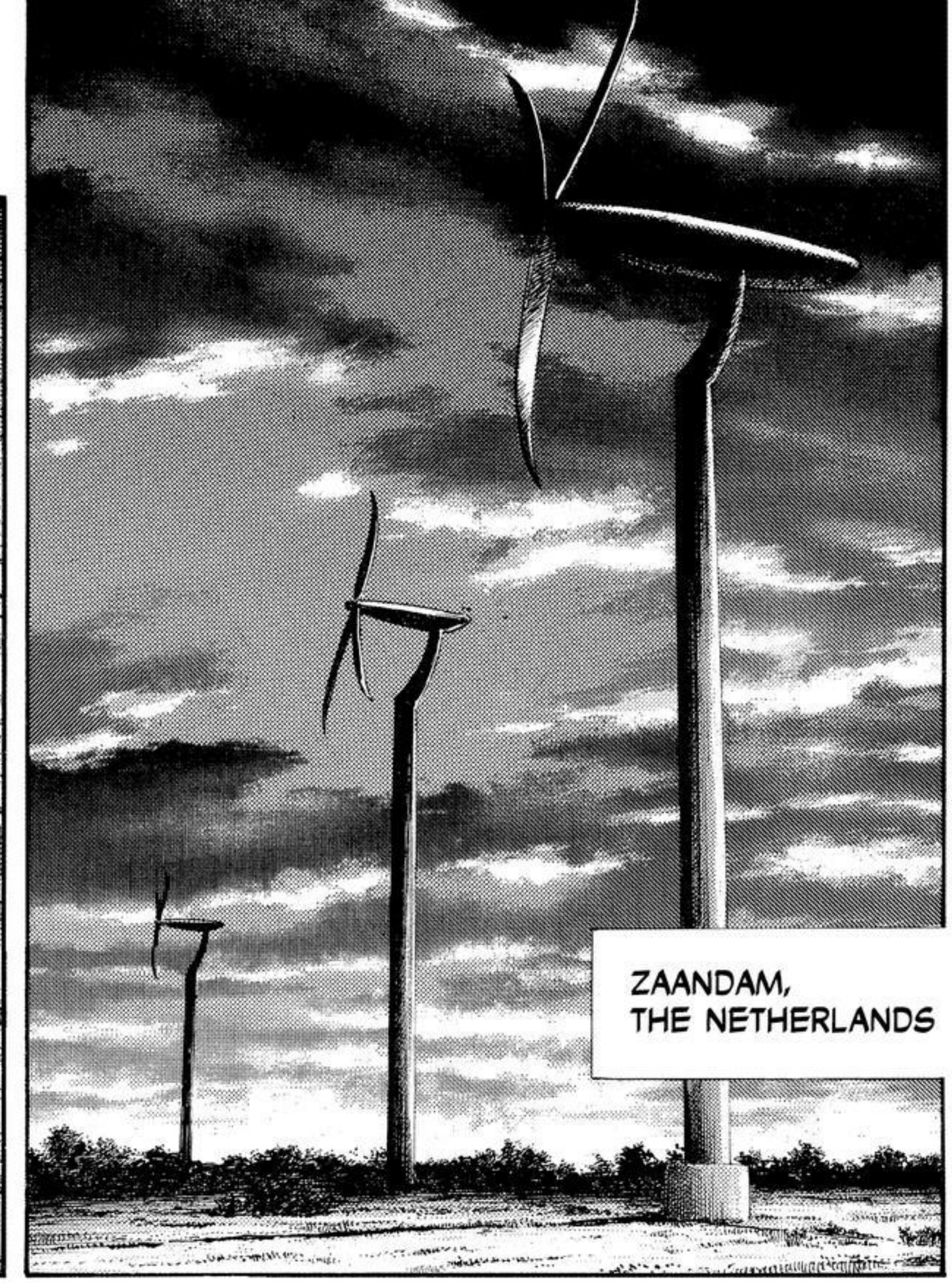
HONORED TO MEET YOU. THE NAME'S ABULLAH...

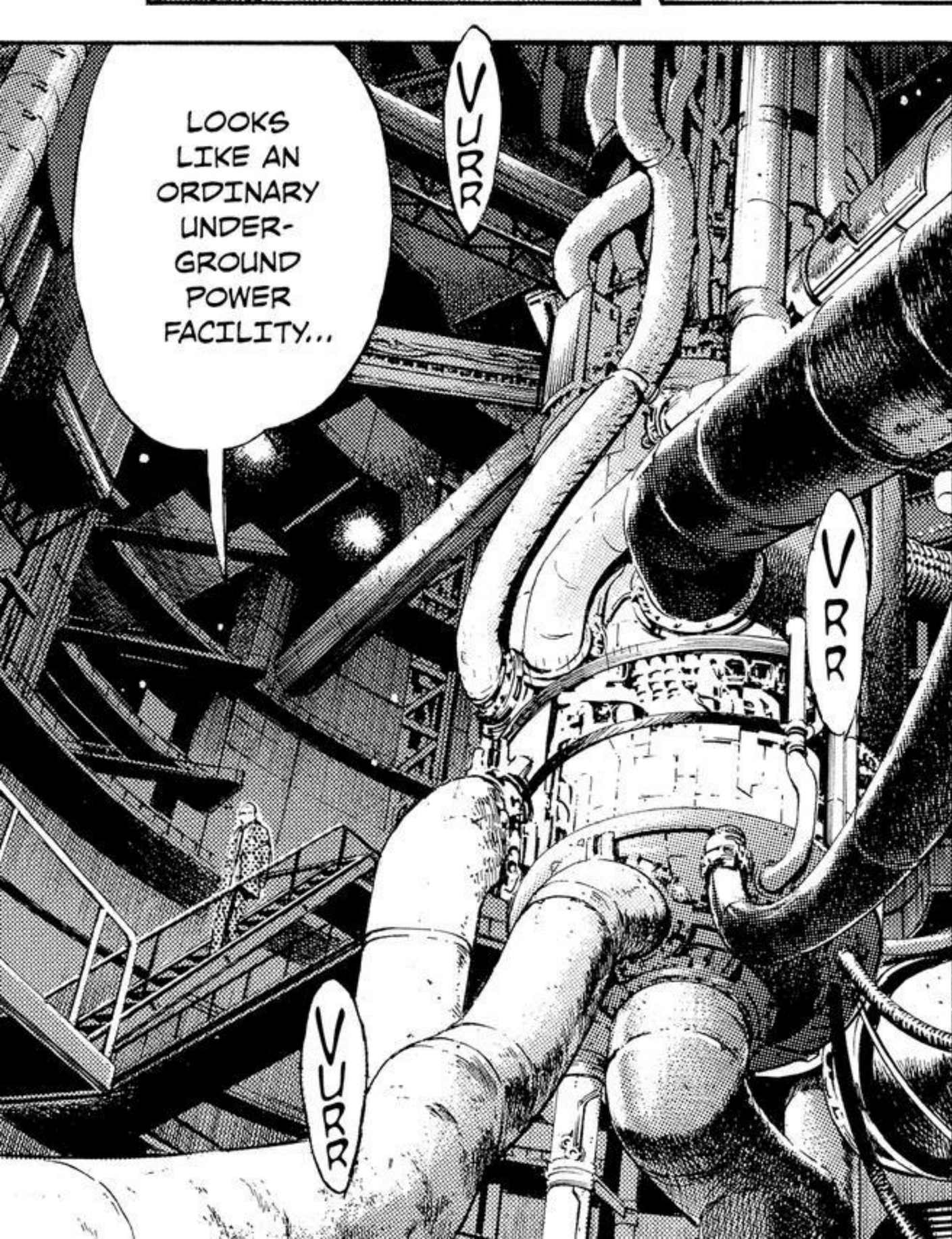

EXCUSE ME... YOU ARE...?

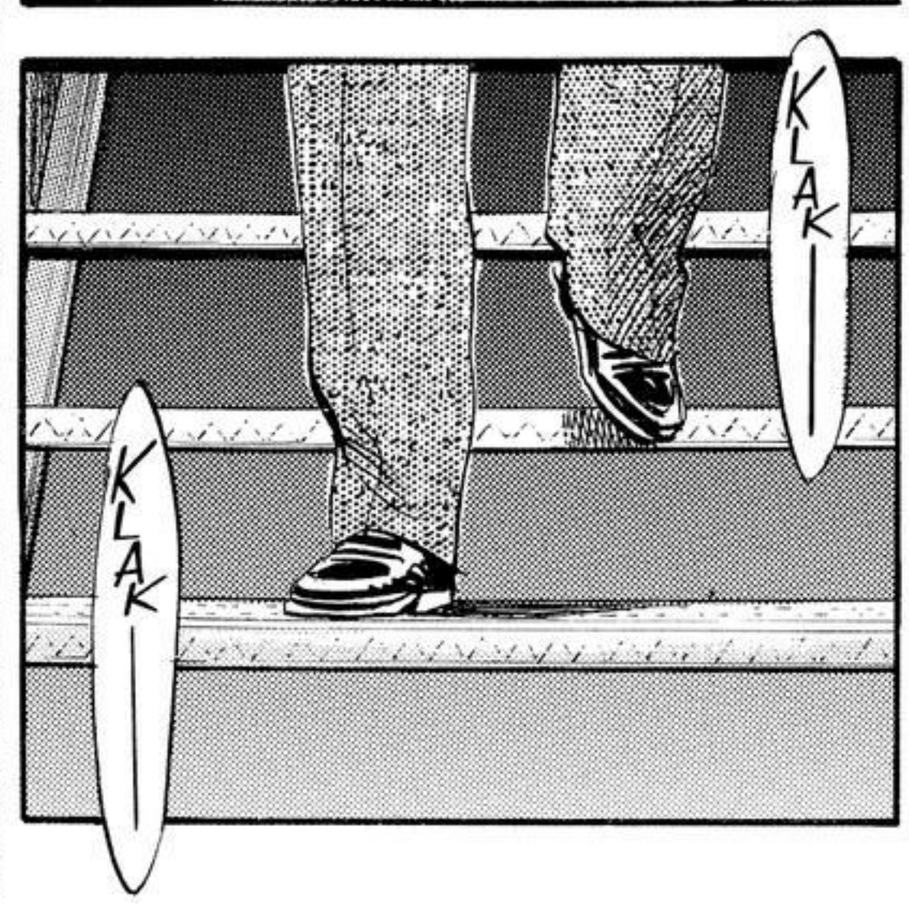
Act 43

AN ENCOUNTER WITH DEATH


CREAK


ZAANDAM,
THE NETHERLANDS

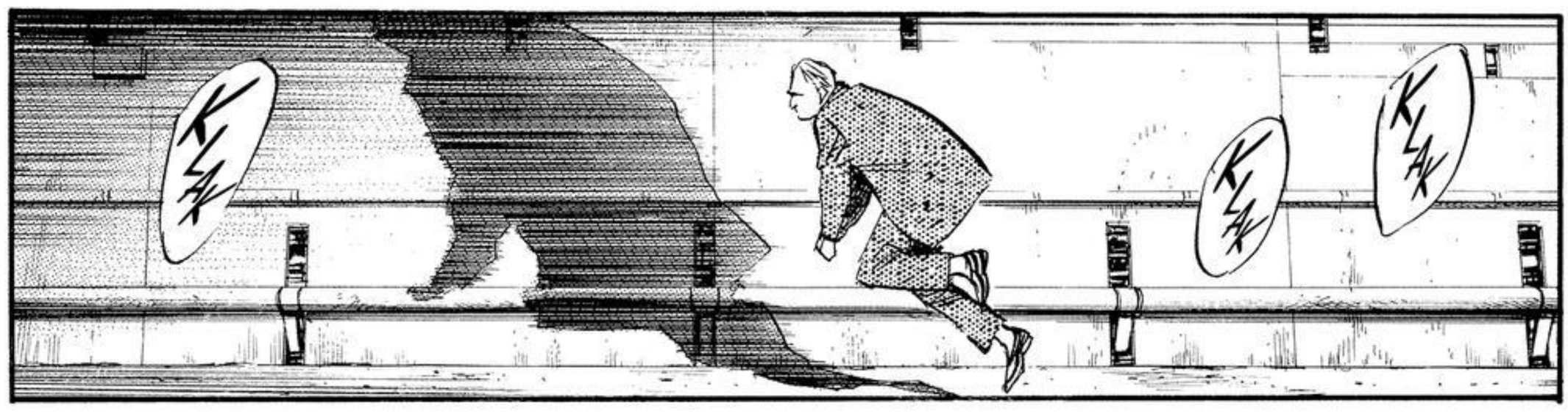

LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY UNDER-GROUND POWER FACILITY...
VURR
VRR
VURR

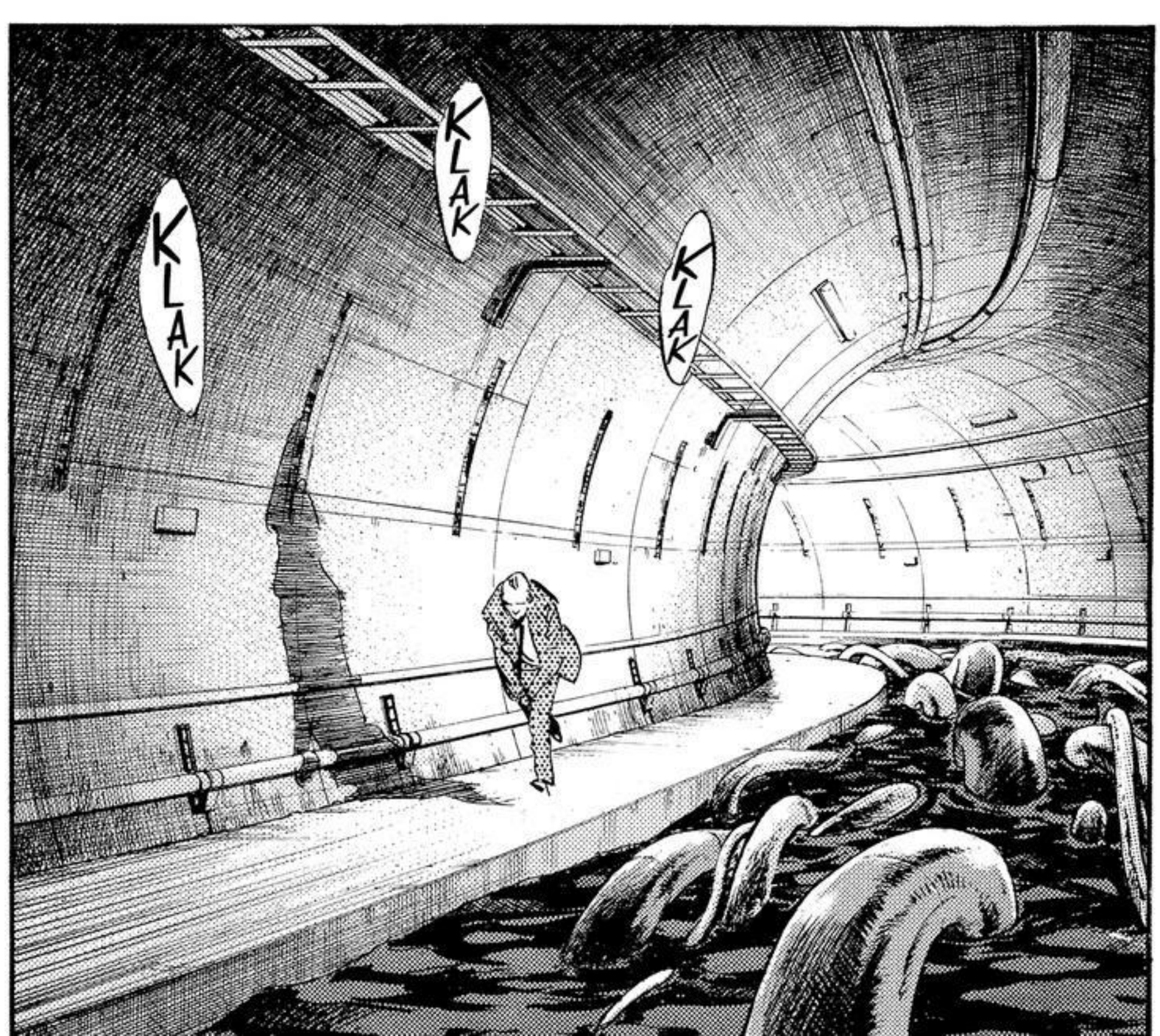

KLAK—
KLAK—

I'M CLOSE!!

IT'S FAINT, BUT THESE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES...

EXACTLY THE SAME AS THOSE THAT EPSILON RECORDED DURING HERCULES' BATTLE TO THE DEATH...!





SCUTTLE

SCTTL SCTTL

SCTTL SKTTL SCTTL

!!

SCUTTLE

!!

GUA

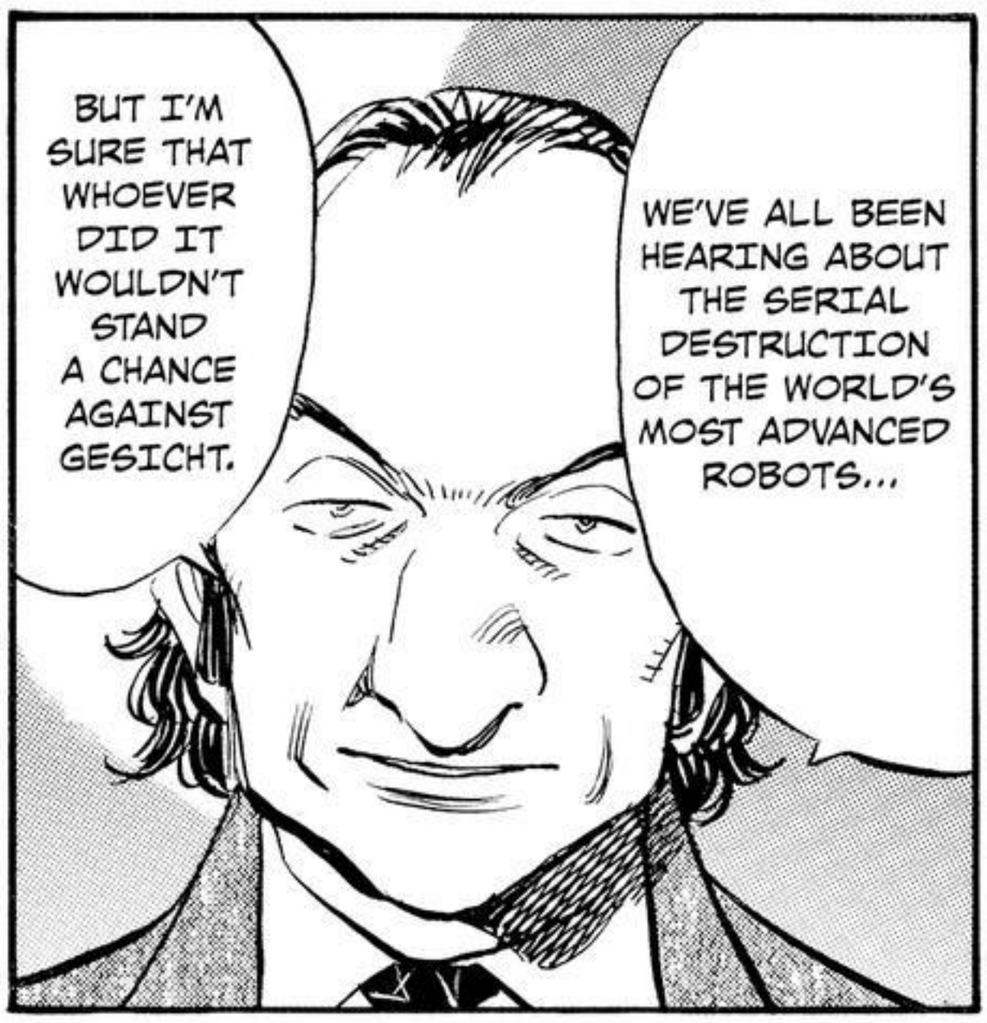
WHO ARE YOU?!

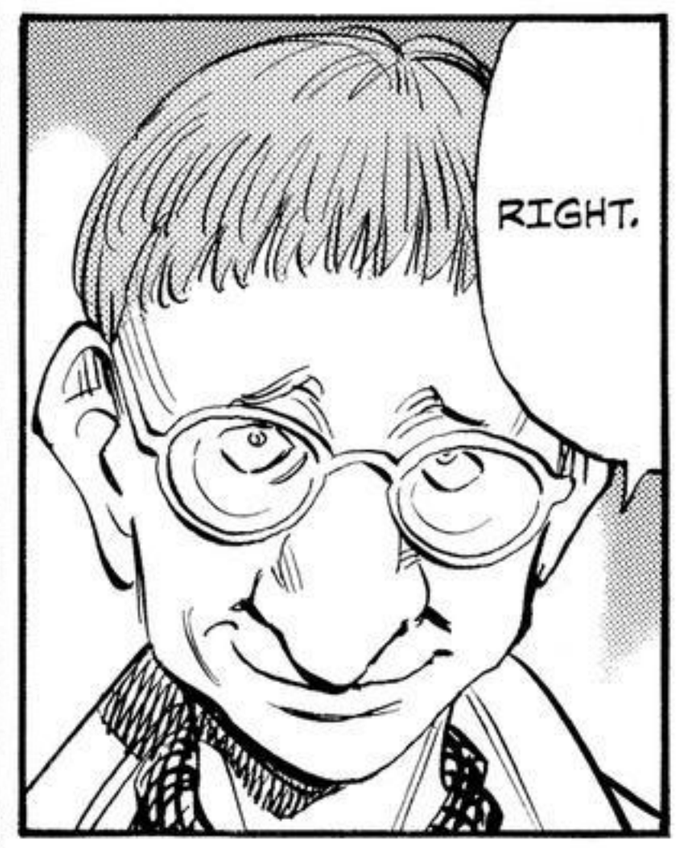
GROAH

THE PLEASURE'S MINE. AND IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN HELP WITH PERSIA'S RECONSTRUCTION ...

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE CREATOR OF THE FAMOUS INSPECTOR GESICHT.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, PROFESSOR...



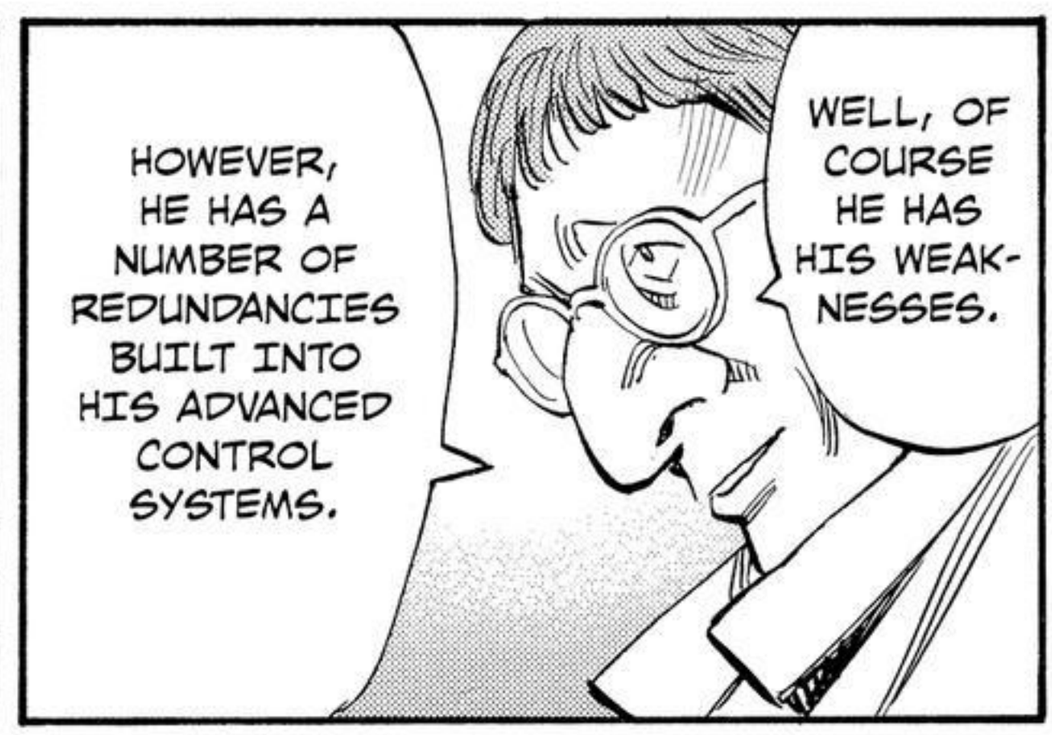


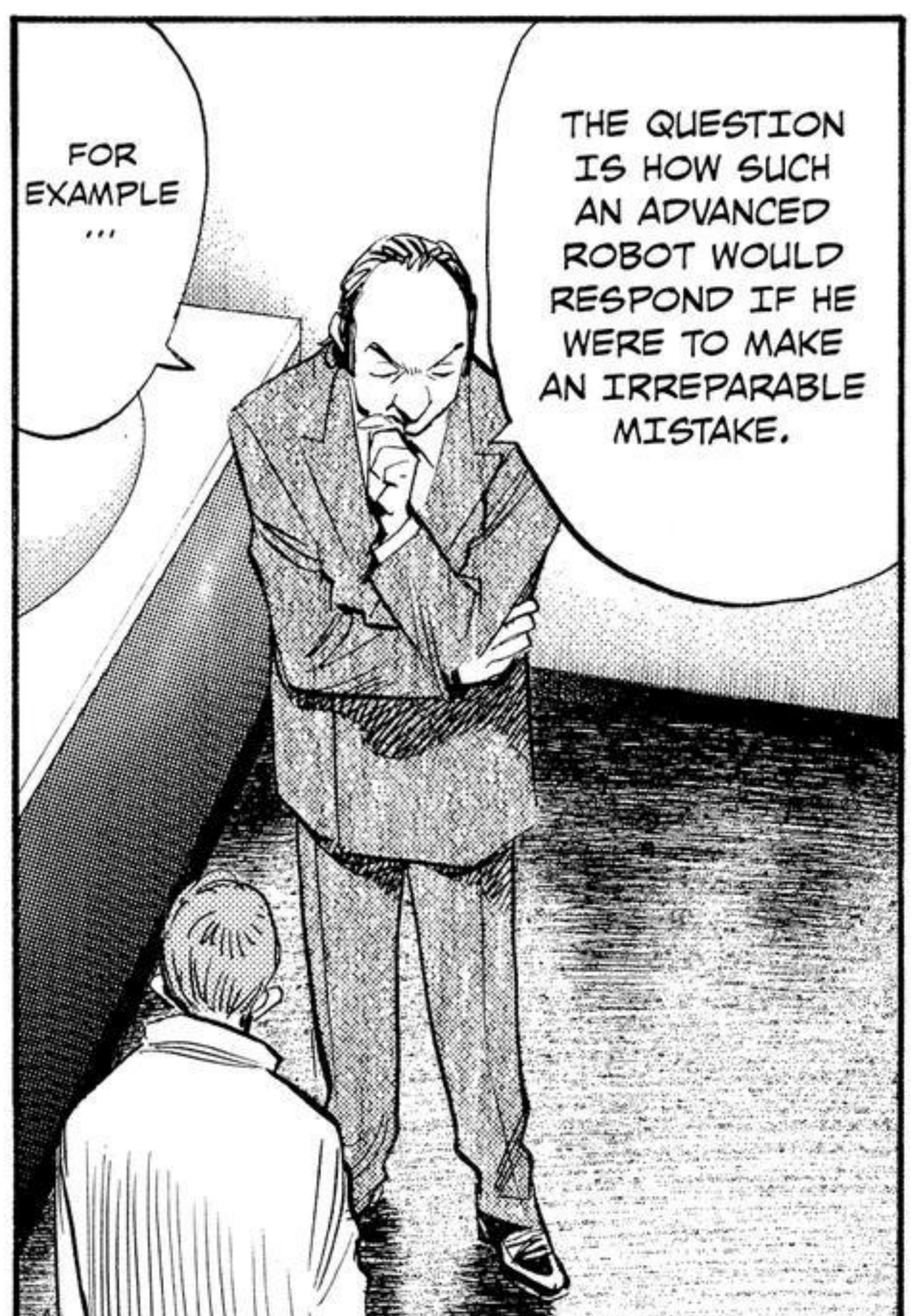
GESICHT IS WITHOUT WEAKNESSES...
WELL... I... ER...

LUCKILY, IT WASN'T VERY SERIOUS.

SO YOU MEAN THAT IT DIDN'T AFFECT HIM?
I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT...

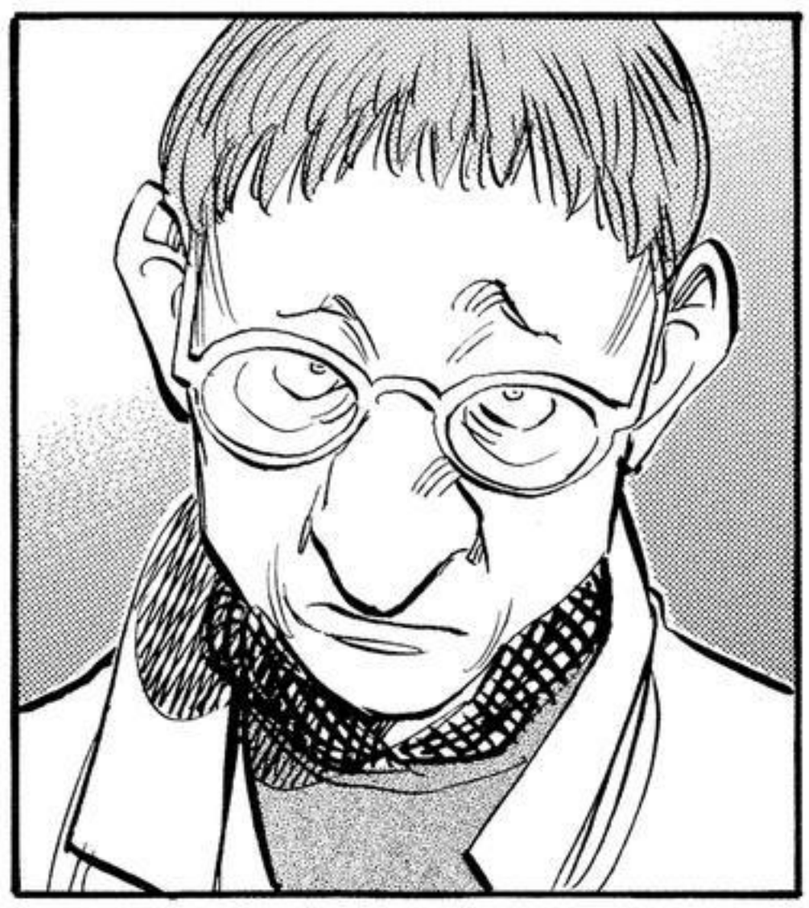
SO YOU MEAN HE DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES ...?
I SEE...


HOWEVER, HE HAS A NUMBER OF REDUNDANCIES BUILT INTO HIS ADVANCED CONTROL SYSTEMS.
WELL, OF COURSE HE HAS HIS WEAK-NESSES.

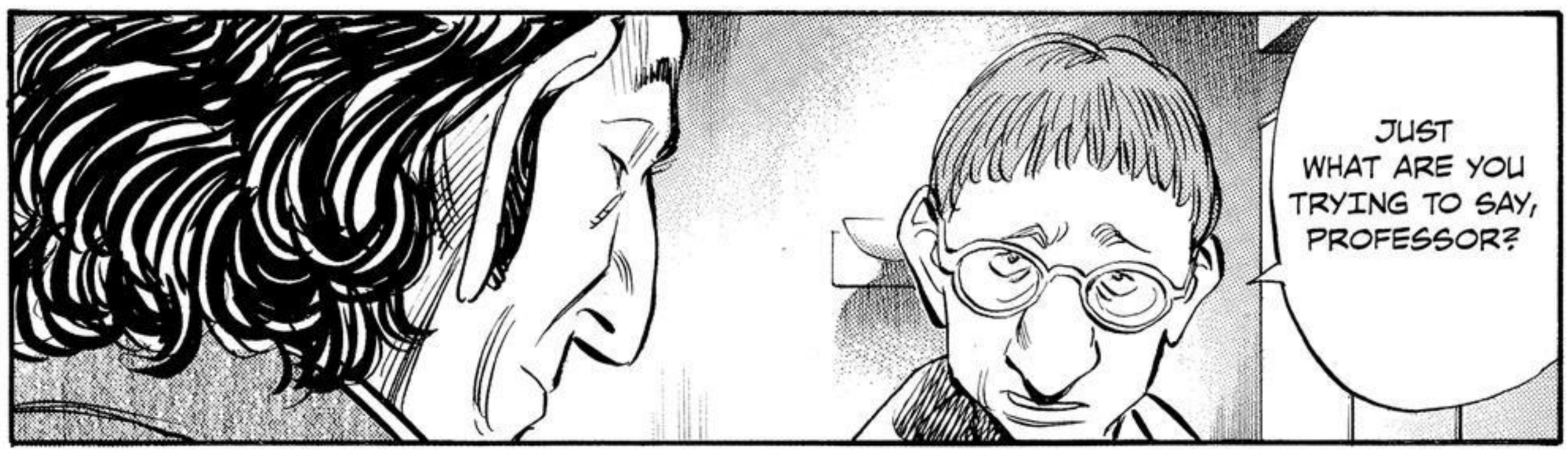

FOR EXAMPLE ...
THE QUESTION IS HOW SUCH AN ADVANCED ROBOT WOULD RESPOND IF HE WERE TO MAKE AN IRREPARABLE MISTAKE.

WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE HAS THE SAME KINDS OF DOUBTS THAT WE ALL HAVE.
MIS-TAKES?

HAVING DOUBTS CAN BE BOTH A STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS...
DOUBTS? THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN BY DEFECTS?



SAY HE KILLED A *HUMAN*...

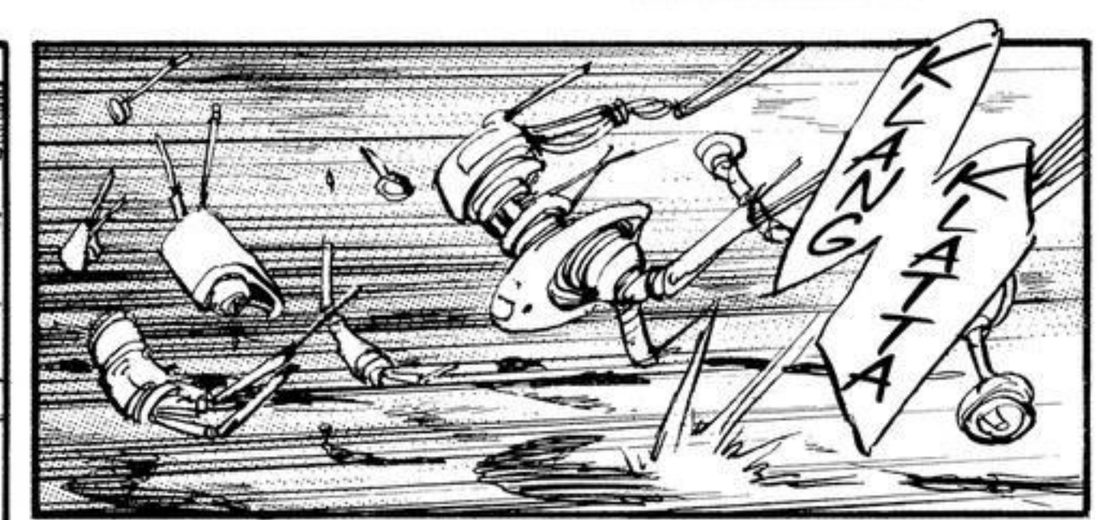

JUST WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, PROFESSOR?

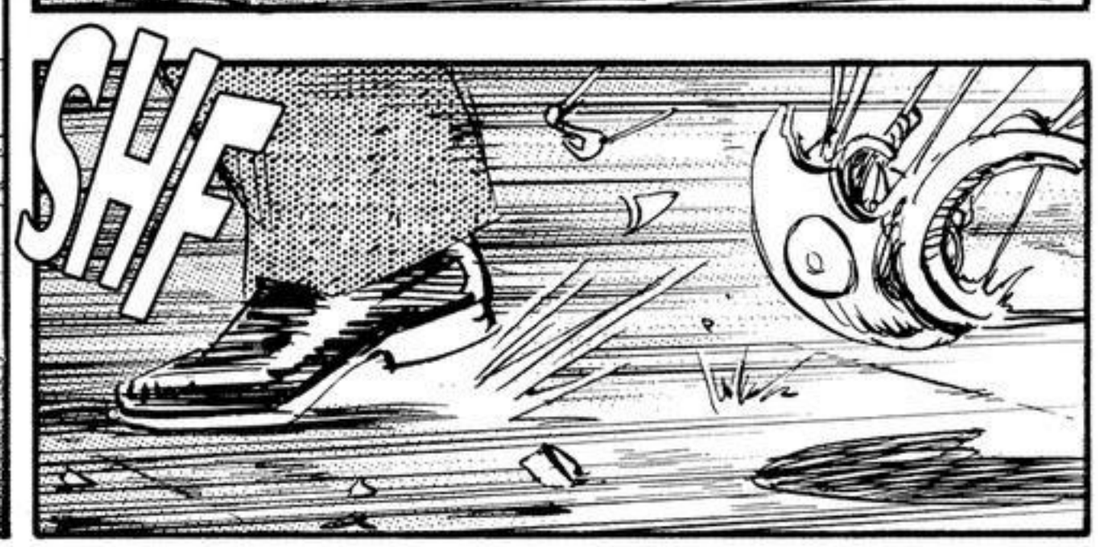
GRAA

SWP
SWP
SWP
SWP
SHOOM

BOOM

DASH!
CHAK


KLATTA
KLANG


SHF

SHWIK

WHO ARE YOU?

GUAA

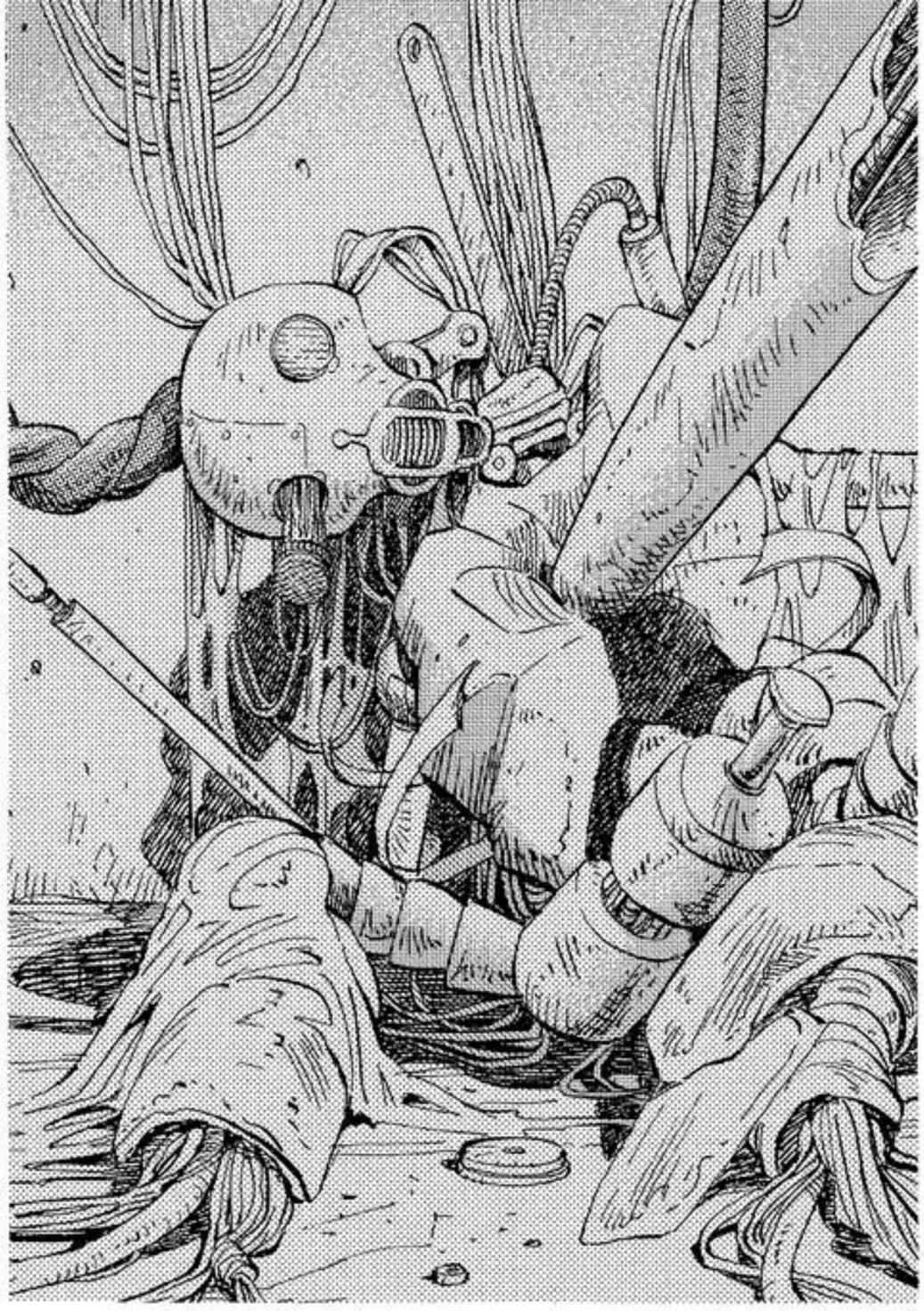
GUAA

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT?
ARRW

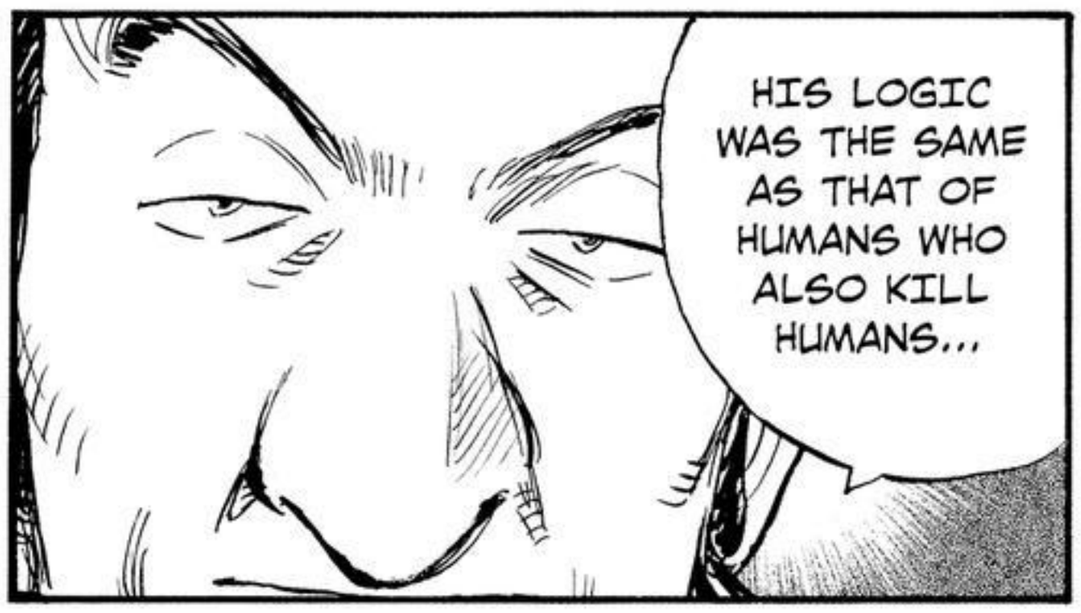
...IN WHICH A ROBOT KILLED A HUMAN.

I BELIEVE THERE WAS A CASE IN THE PAST, PROFESSOR...

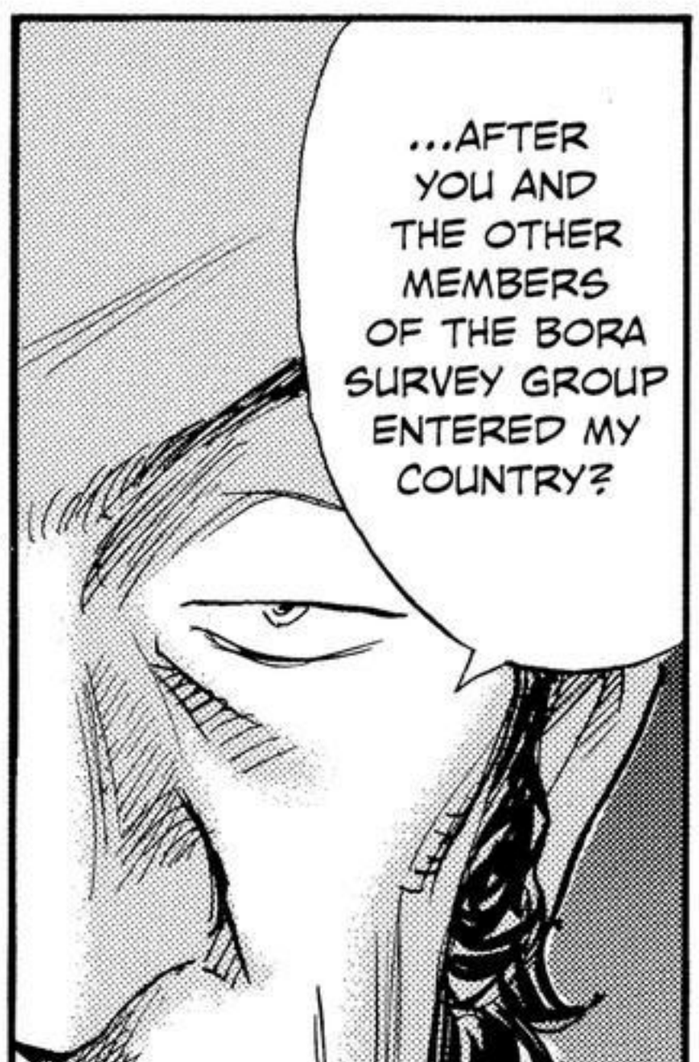
...



BRAU 1589...


HIS LOGIC WAS THE SAME AS THAT OF HUMANS WHO ALSO KILL HUMANS...

HE APPARENTLY DESCRIBED WHAT HE HAD DONE AS AN "EXECUTION"...


...AFTER YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BORA SURVEY GROUP ENTERED MY COUNTRY?

ISN'T THIS THE SAME THING THAT THE WORLD DID TO PERSIA...?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING, PROFESSOR?

AND IT'S TRUE THAT DEMOCRACY HAS TAKEN ROOT IN PERSIA AS A RESULT...

NO, PROFES-SOR...

...
I'M SORRY. I'VE GONE TOO FAR...

FORGIVE ME FOR BRINGING UP SUCH AS DISTASTEFUL SUBJECT.

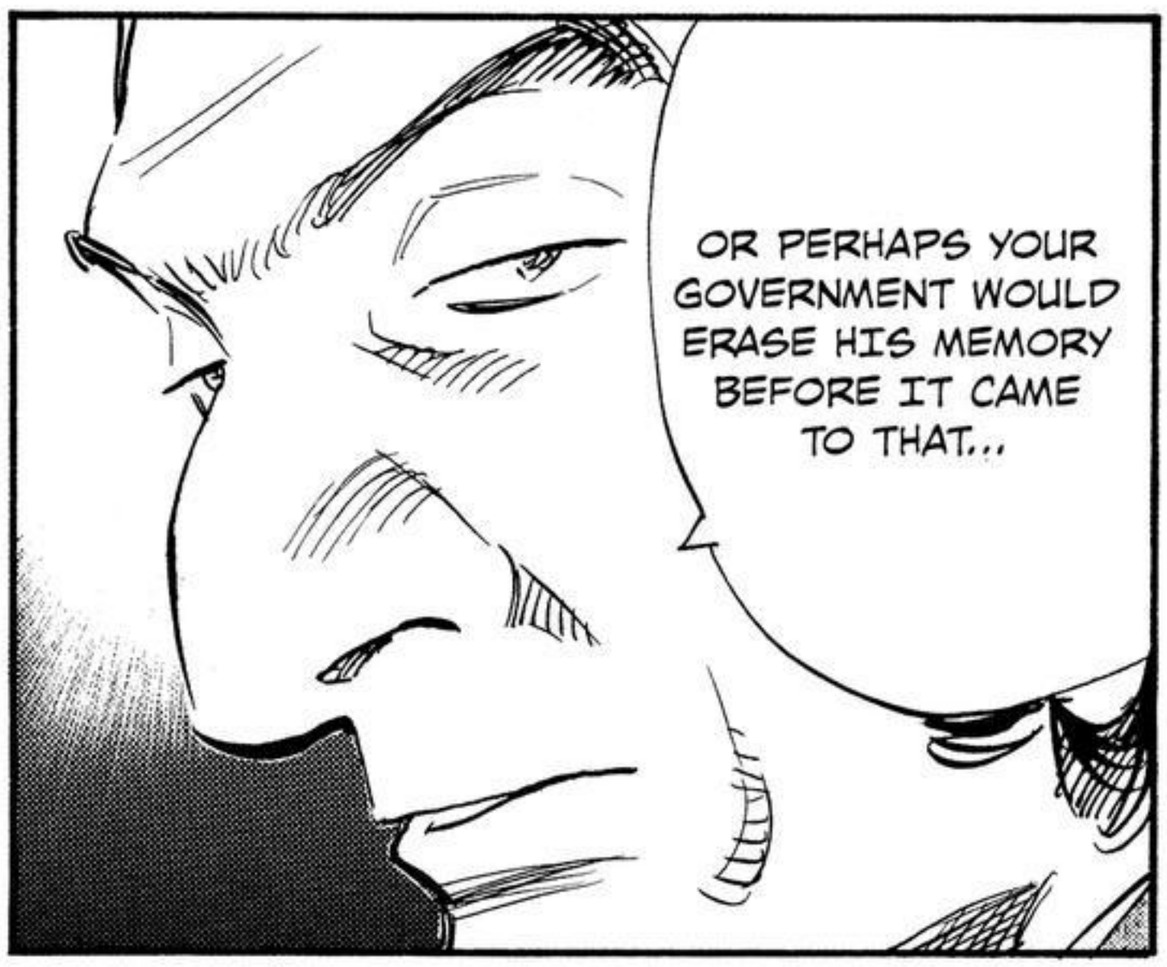
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL.

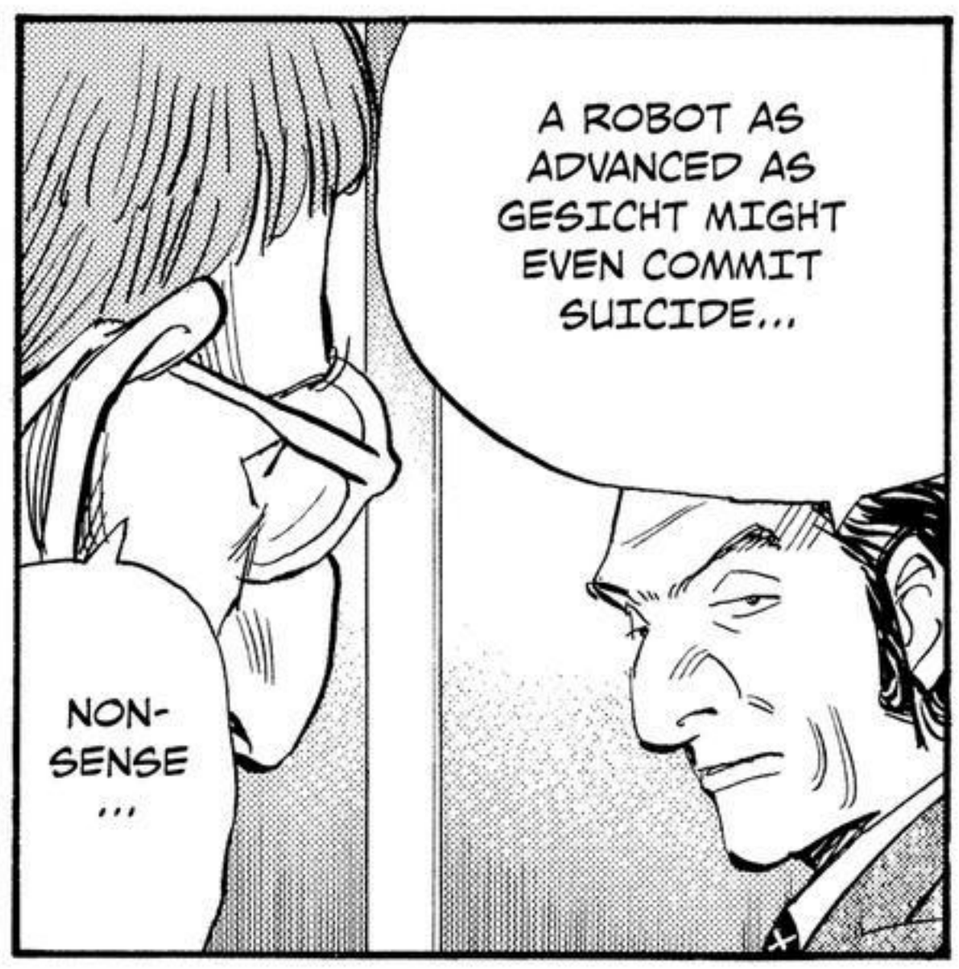
I *DO* THINK THAT ROBOT SHOULD BE *EXECUTED*...

BUT IF A ROBOT DID KILL A HUMAN...

FIRST OF ALL, THAT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN.

...I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOUR RESPONSE WOULD BE.
IF GESICHT EVER DID SUCH A THING...


OR PERHAPS YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD ERASE HIS MEMORY BEFORE IT CAME TO THAT...


A ROBOT AS ADVANCED AS GESICHT MIGHT EVEN COMMIT SUICIDE...
NON-SENSE ...

TO HIS AI, I MEAN...
HAVE YOU DONE ANYTHING TO HIM?

!!

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE SURE HE'S PROPERLY MAINTAINED, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN... THAT'S ALL...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO GESICHT?!!

B... BUT SIR ...!!

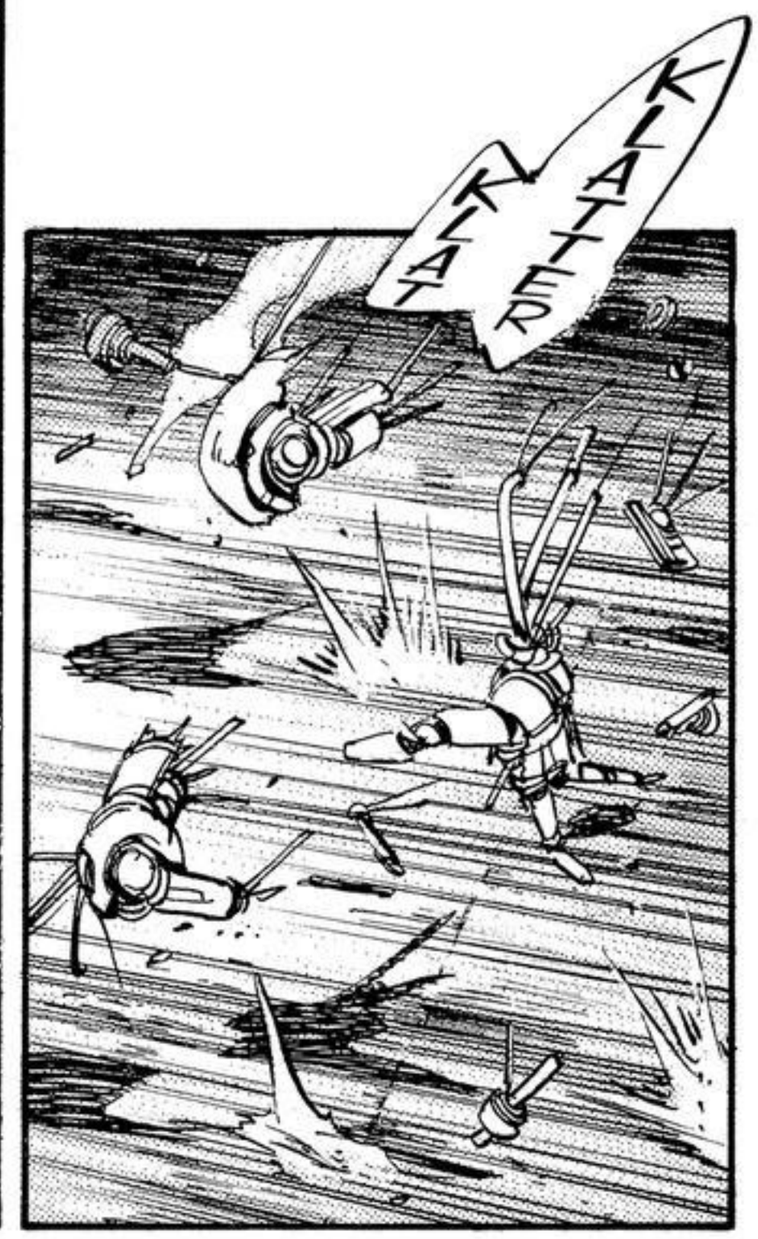
...BECAUSE THEIR MEMORIES CAN BE ERASED.

I FIND MYSELF ENVYING ROBOTS...

...

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE DONE TO ME.

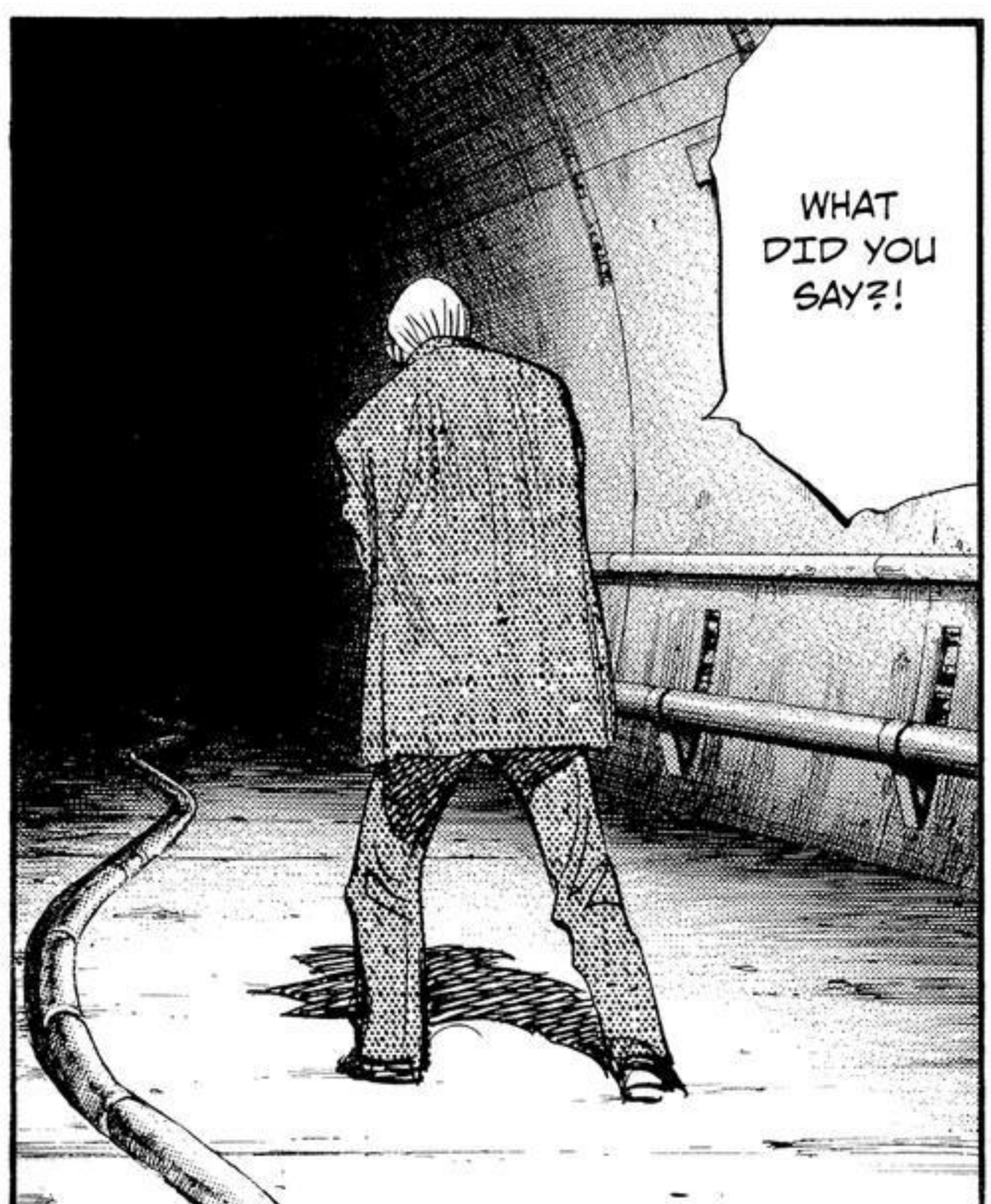
GESICHT ...!!
DASH


KLIAT
KLATTER

YOU MUST TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY IMMEDIATELY!
HE'S IN DÜSSELDORF!! ATTENDING THE EUROPEAN ROBOTICS CONFERENCE!!

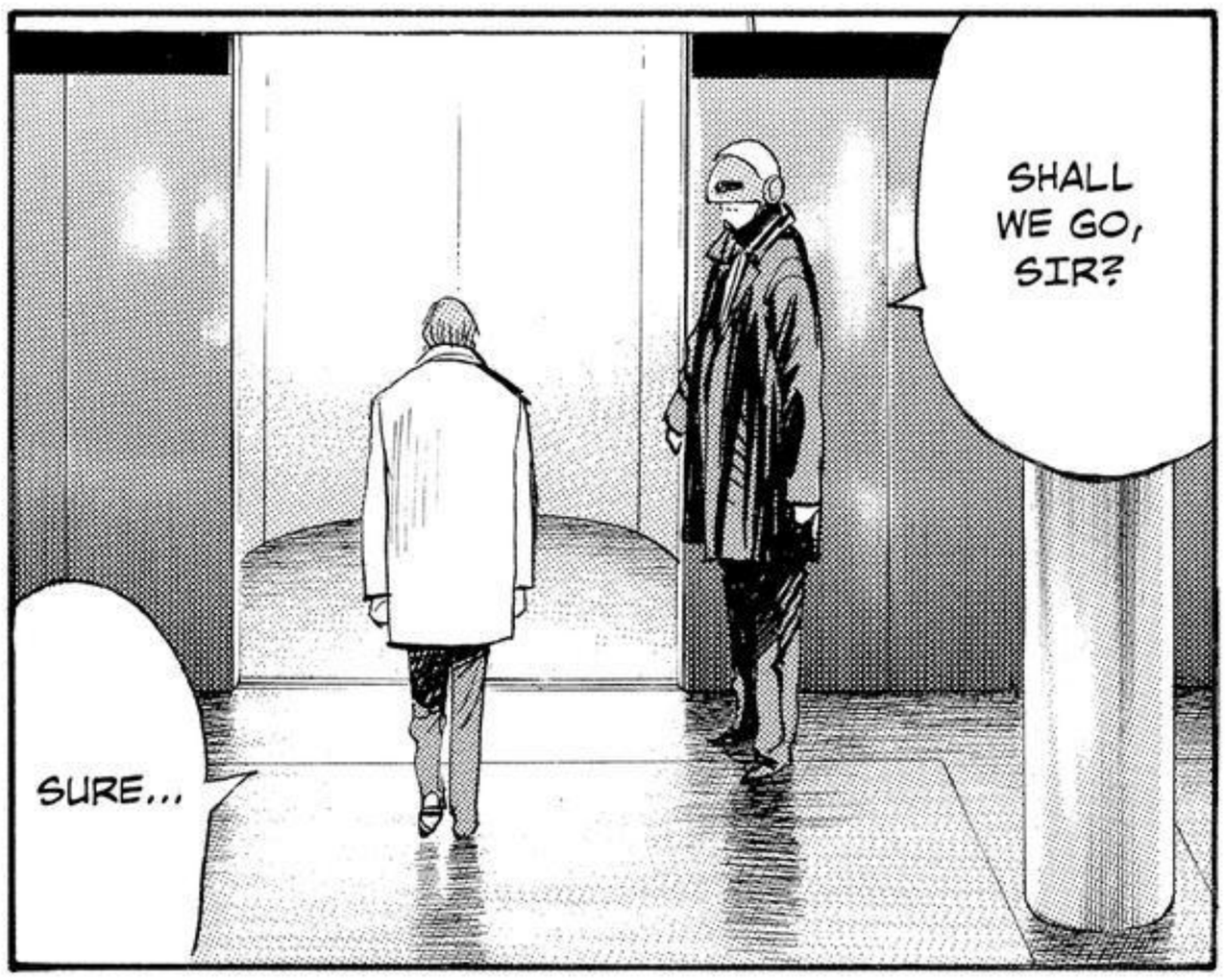
I READ YOU...
THIS IS EUROPOL HEAD-QUARTERS! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

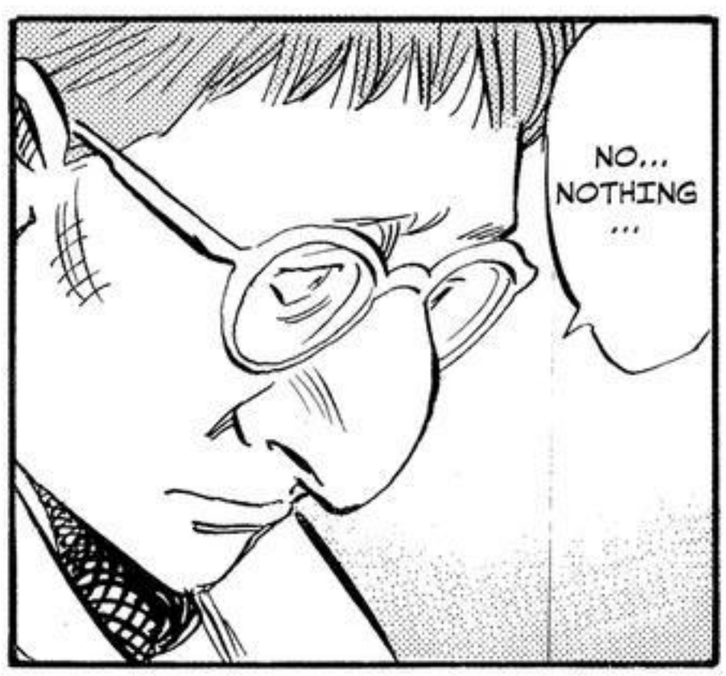
YOU HAVE?!
WE'VE LOCATED PROFESSOR ABULLAH!

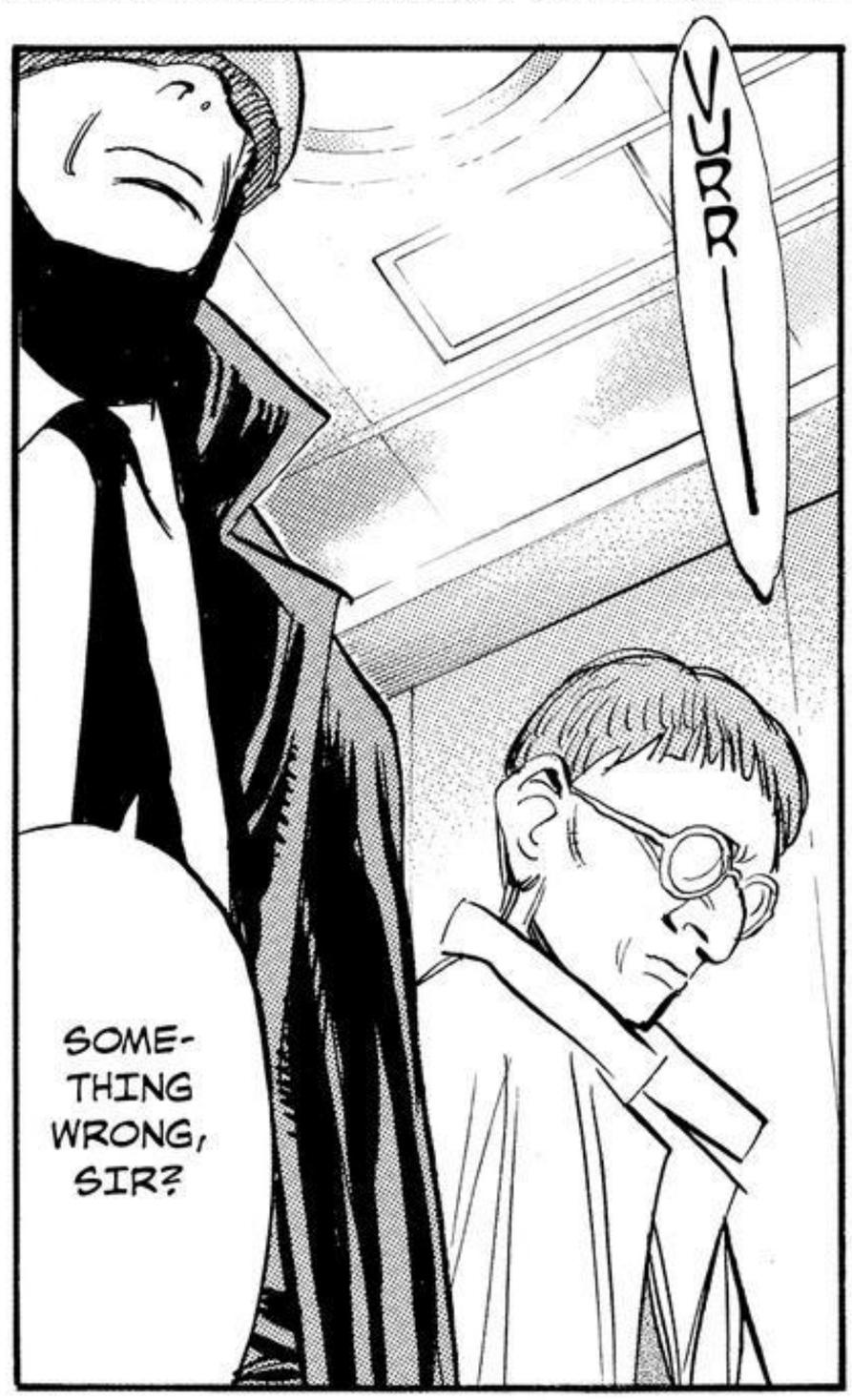

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

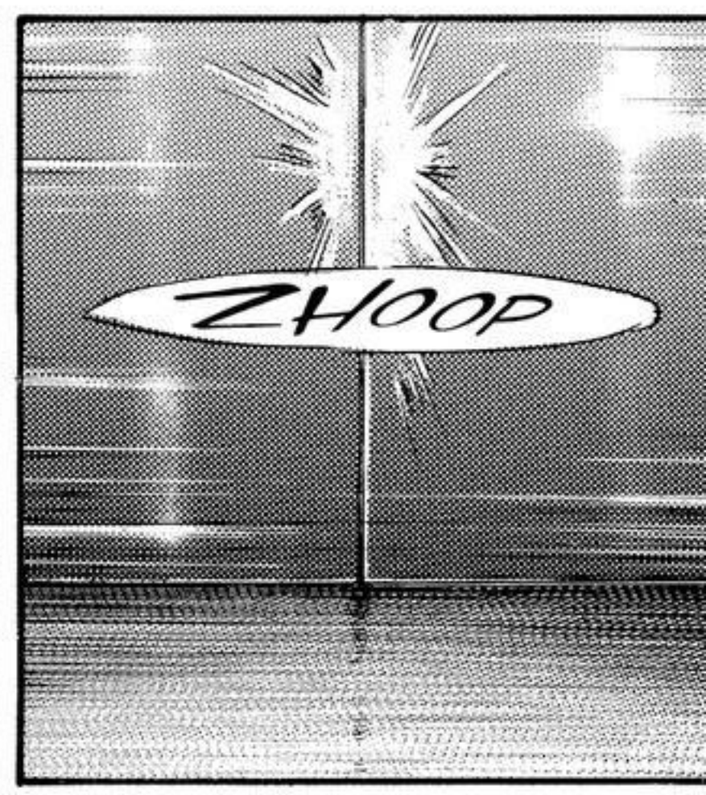
GESICHT, PROFESSOR HOFFMAN'S ATTENDING THAT SAME CONFERENCE!
WHAT ?!

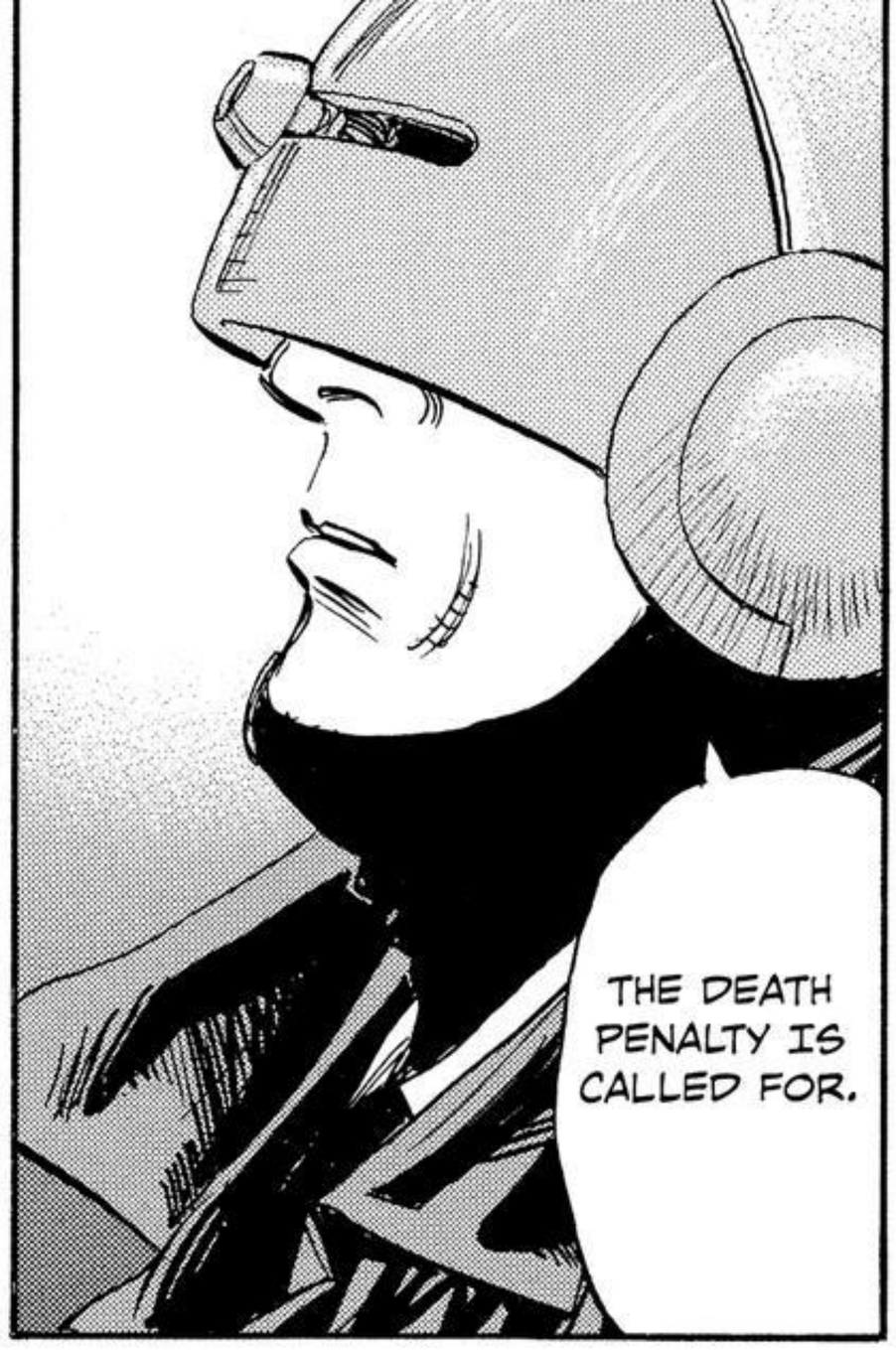
PROFESSOR *HOFFMAN'S* THERE TOO?







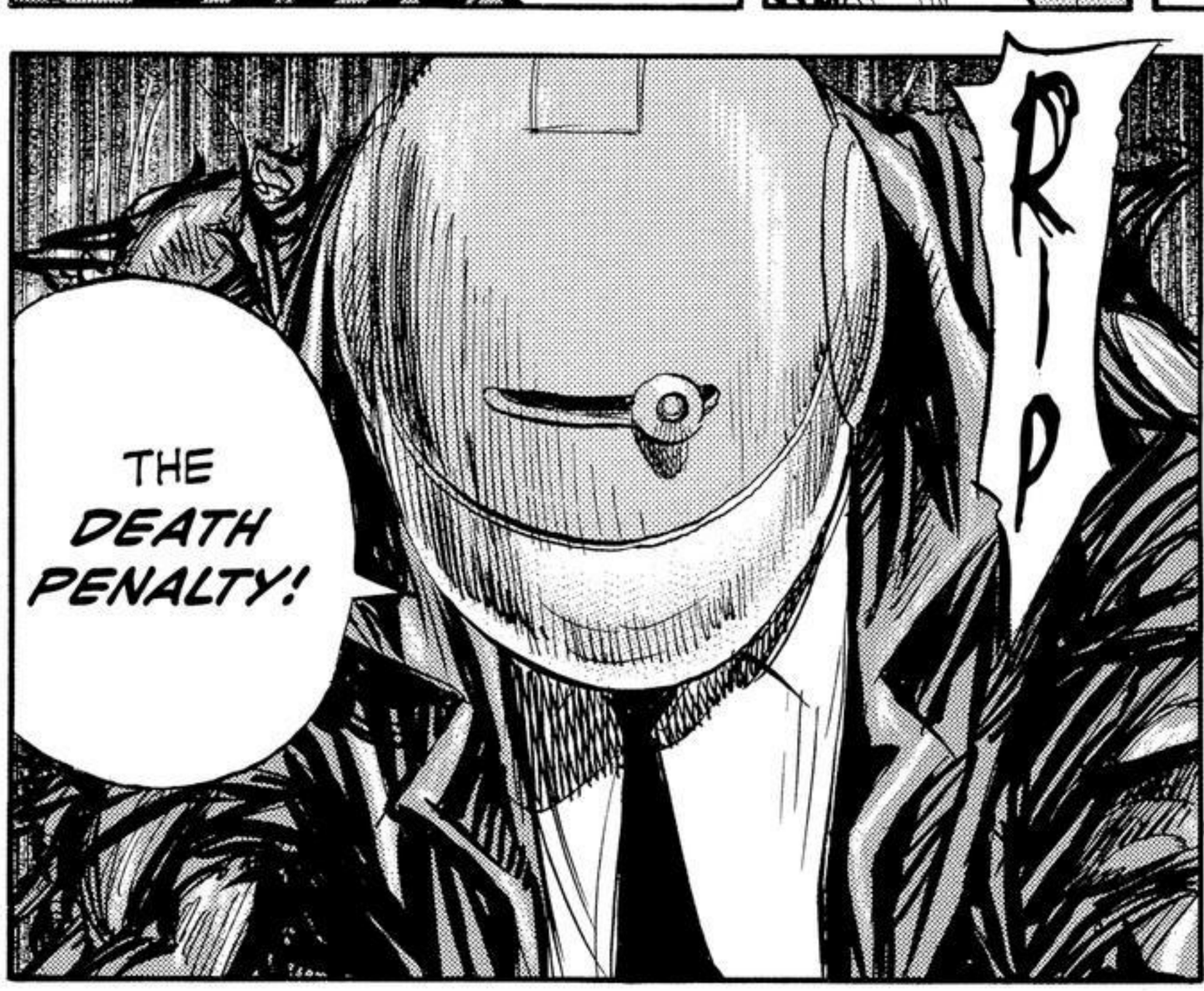



THE DEATH PENALTY IS CALLED FOR.

...?

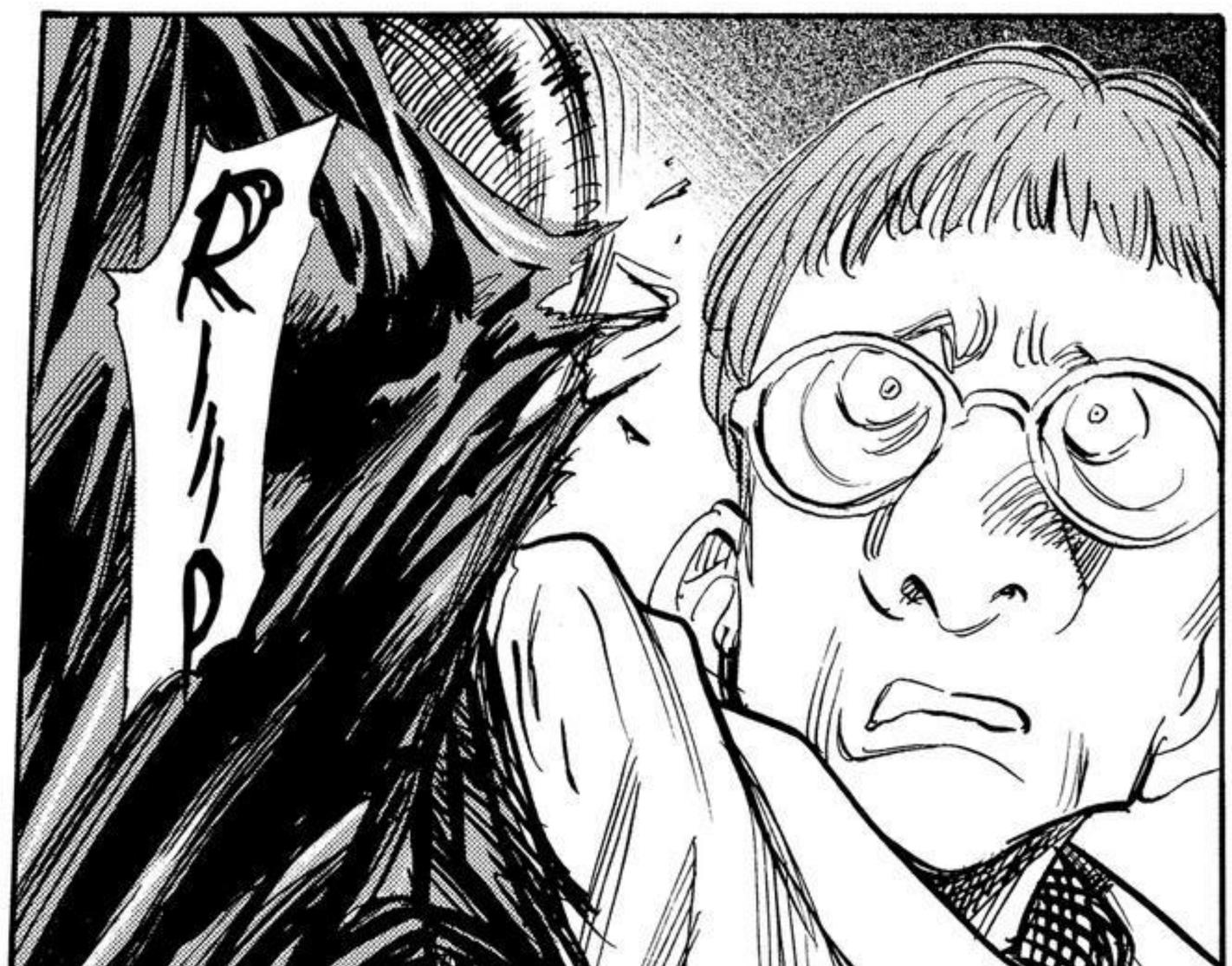
WHAT IS?

SAME AS WHAT THE WORLD DID TO PERSIA...


THE DEATH PENALTY!
RIP

GRK

I'M HEADED THERE RIGHT NOW!
CHECK TO MAKE SURE PROFESSOR HOFFMAN'S OKAY!


RRRIP

ZWMM

ZWMM

SCREEEEE

EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC FORUM, DÜSSELDORF
NOBODY GOES IN OR OUT!
SIR, THE SURVEIL-LANCE MONITOR ...
EVERYONE IS TO STAY PUT UNTIL TOLD OTHER-WISE!!

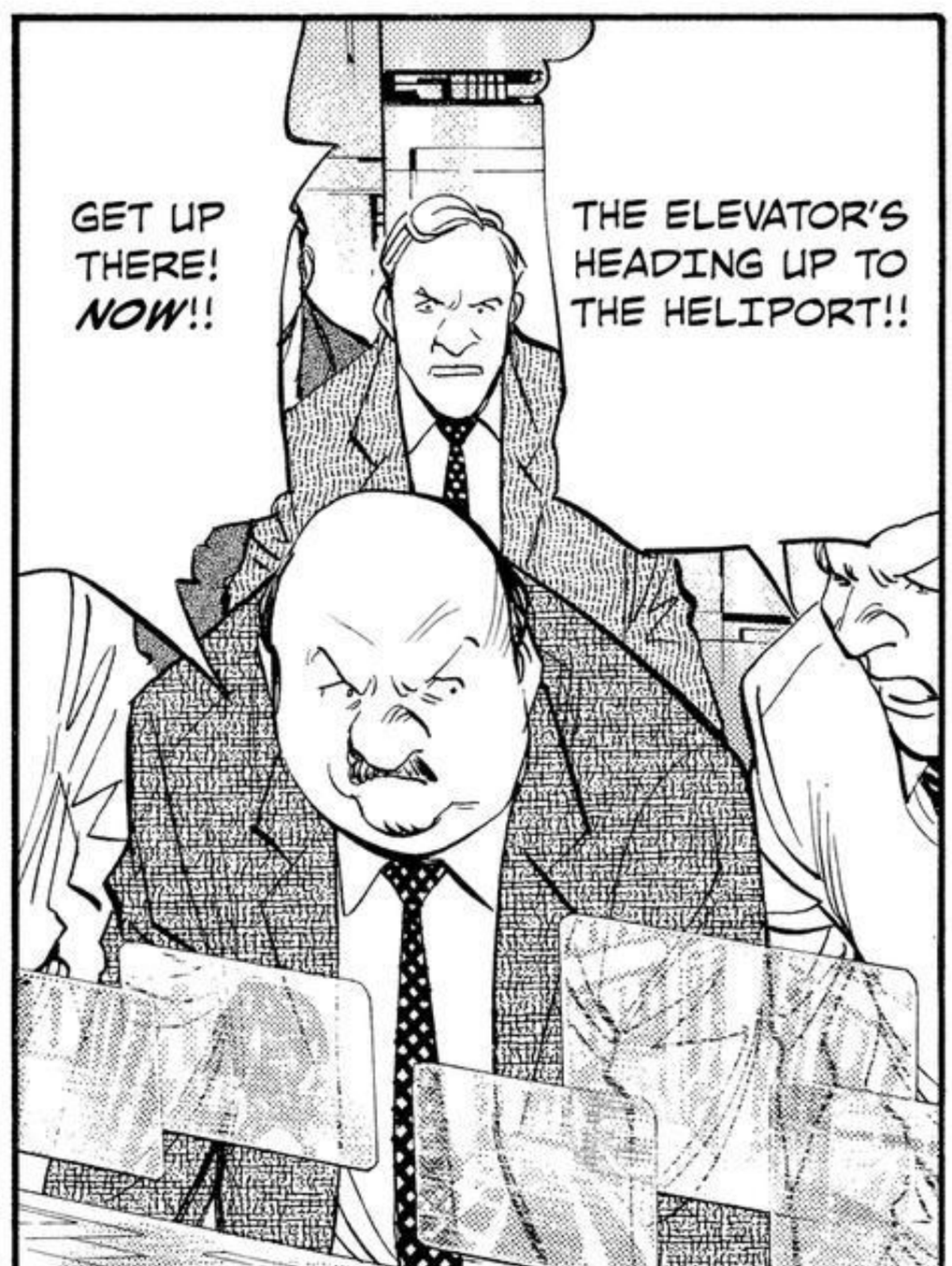
SHUT
SHUT
WE'RE FROM EUROPOL!! EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THIS BUILDING IS SEALED!
B-BUT WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SIR! TAKE A LOOK AT THE ELEVATOR MONITOR!
WHAT?

IT'S...

IT'S *PROFESSOR HOFFMAN...!!*

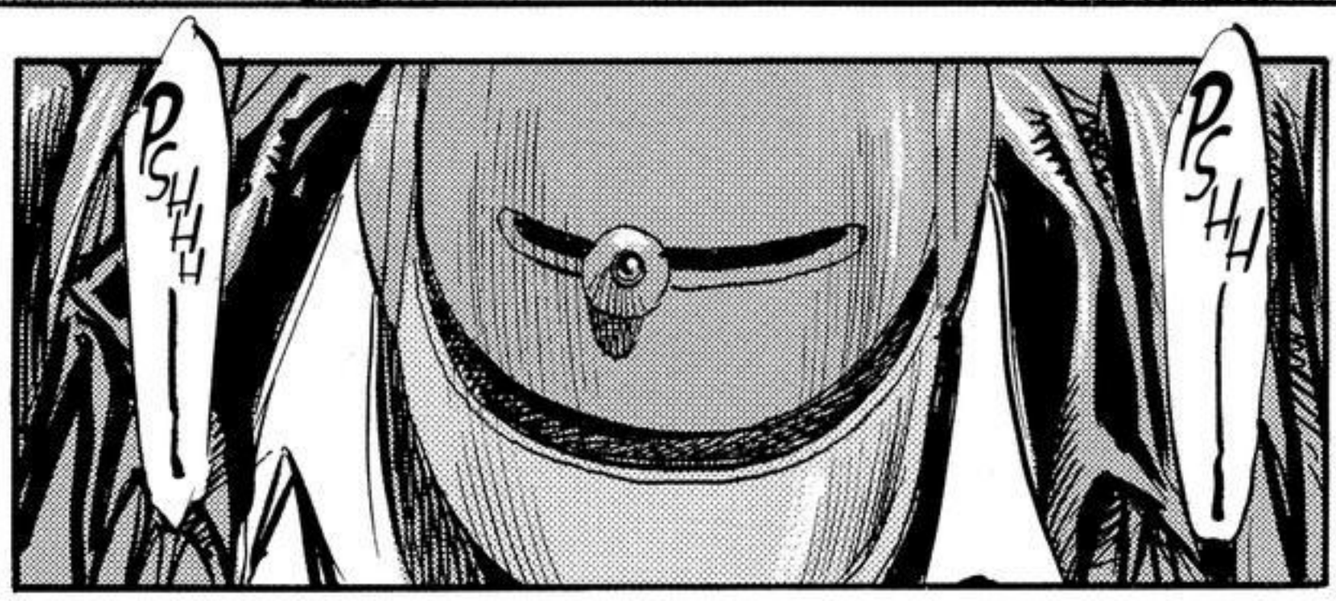
SIR! NONE OF THE OTHER ELEVATORS ARE WORKING!!

W... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS *THAT*?!!


GET UP THERE! *NOW*!!
THE ELEVATOR'S HEADING UP TO THE HELIPORT!!

PSHH

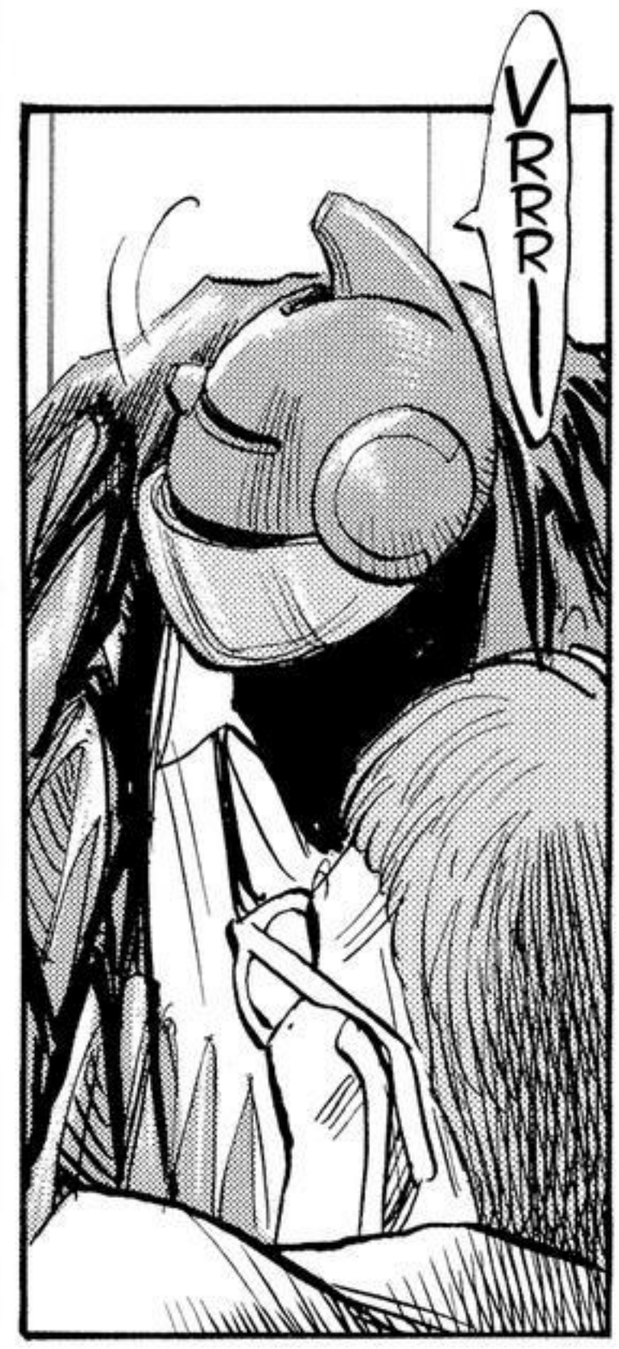
PSHH

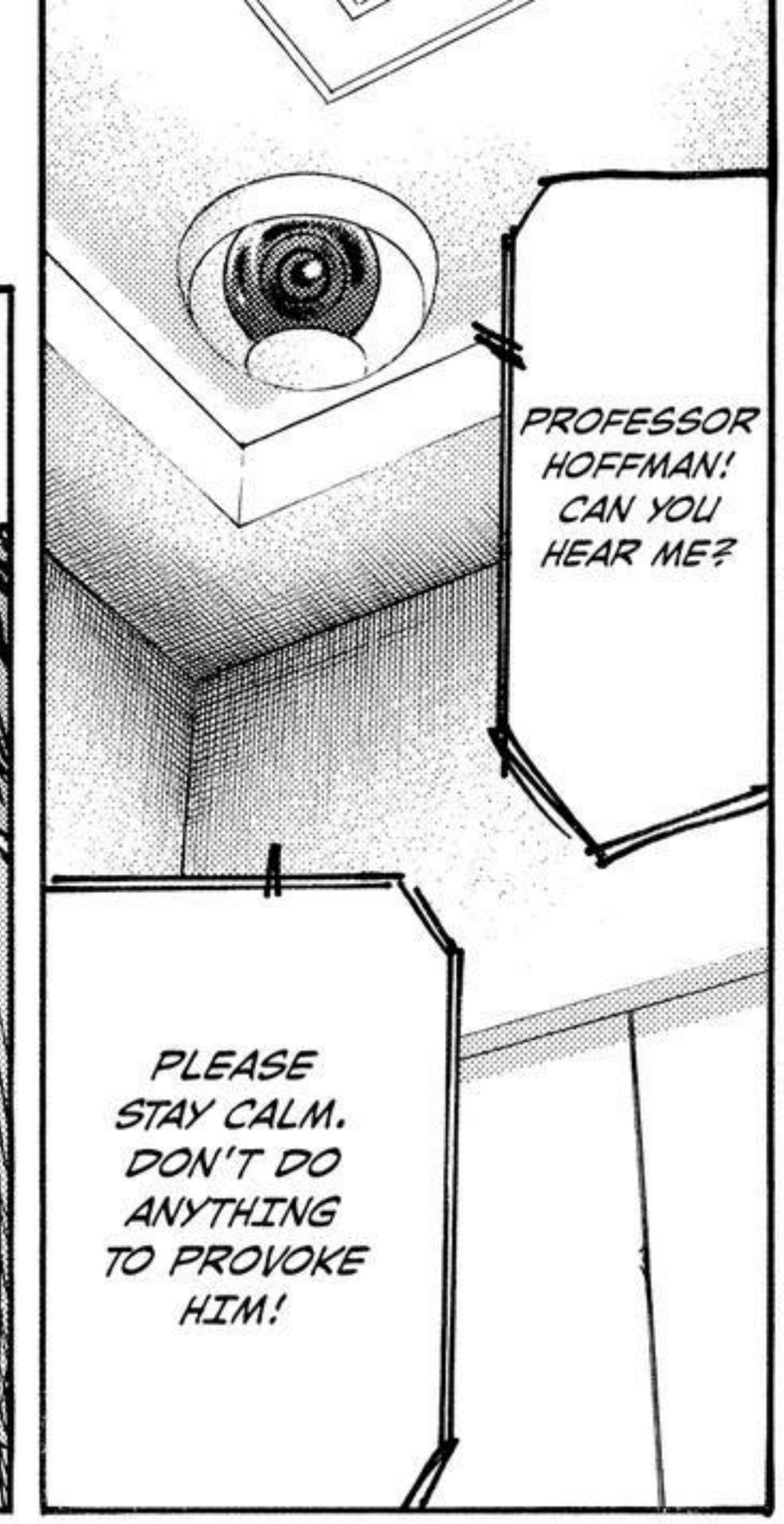

PSHH
PSHH

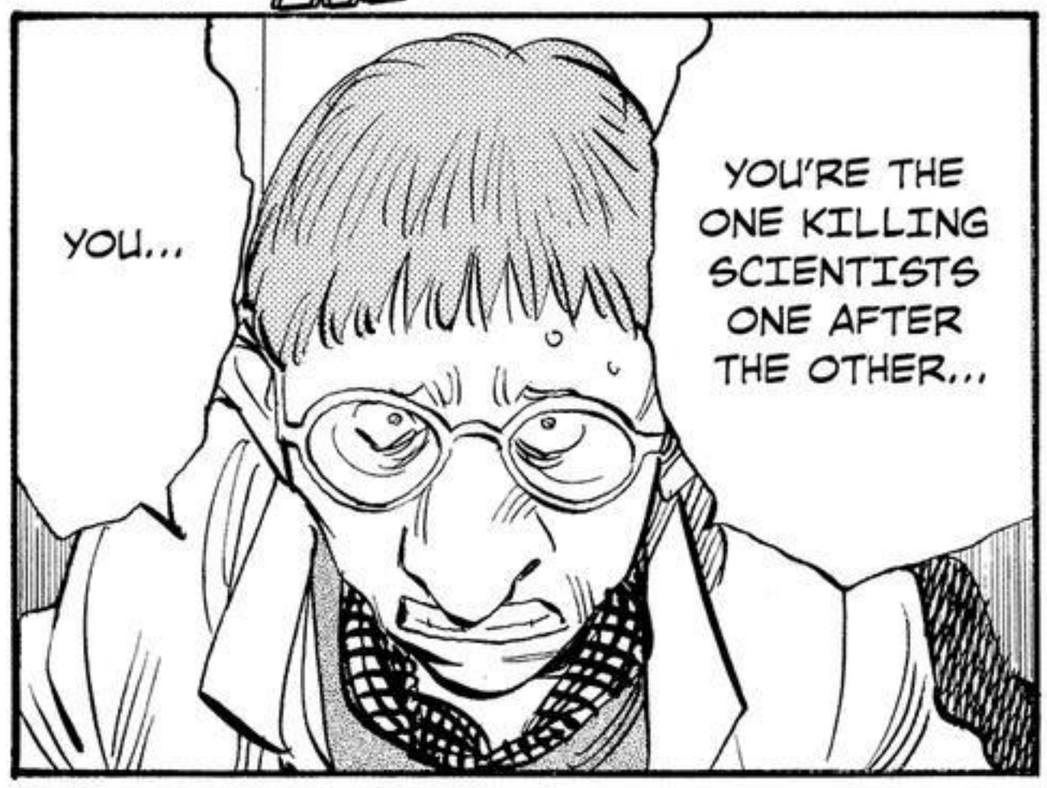
YOU'RE NOT MY SECURITY ROBOT, ARE YOU?
Y... YOU'RE...

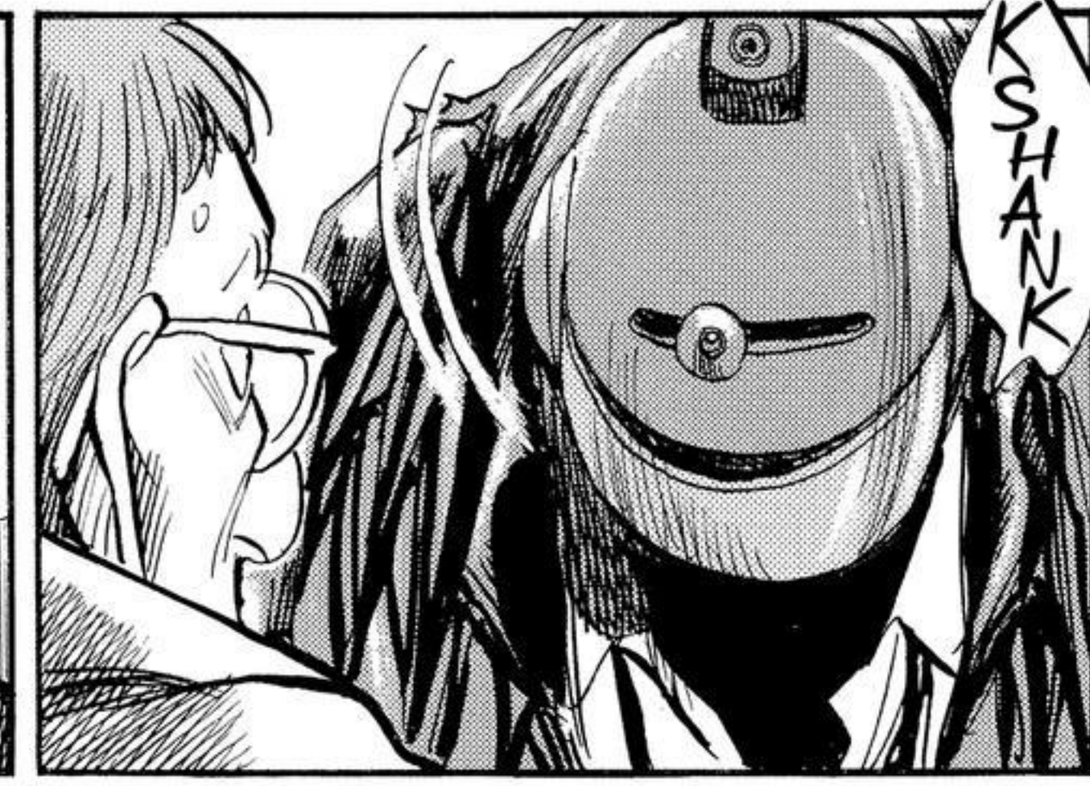
LSS——T
MAYBE SOMETHING'S HIJACKED YOUR AI...?

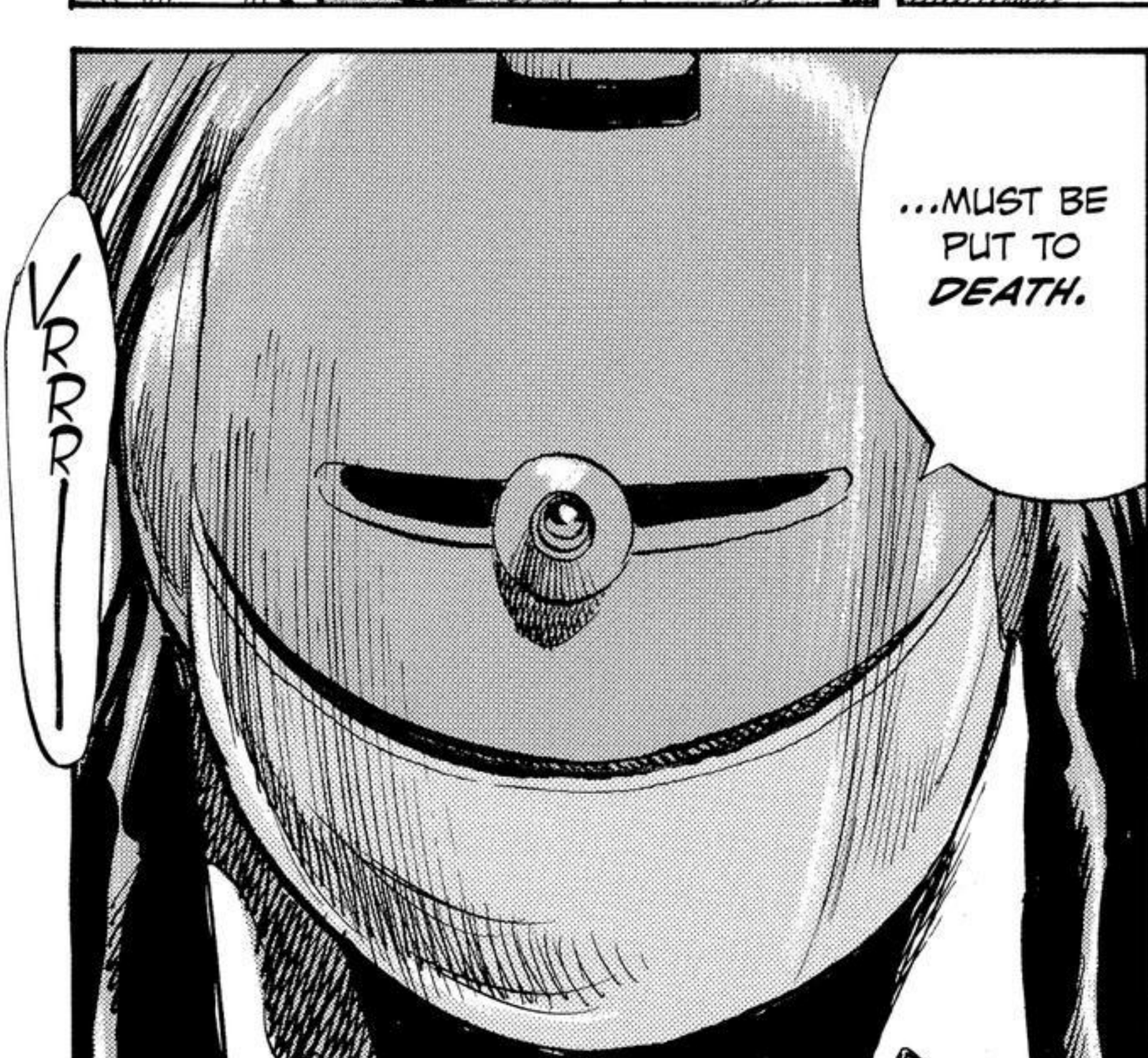
BOOM

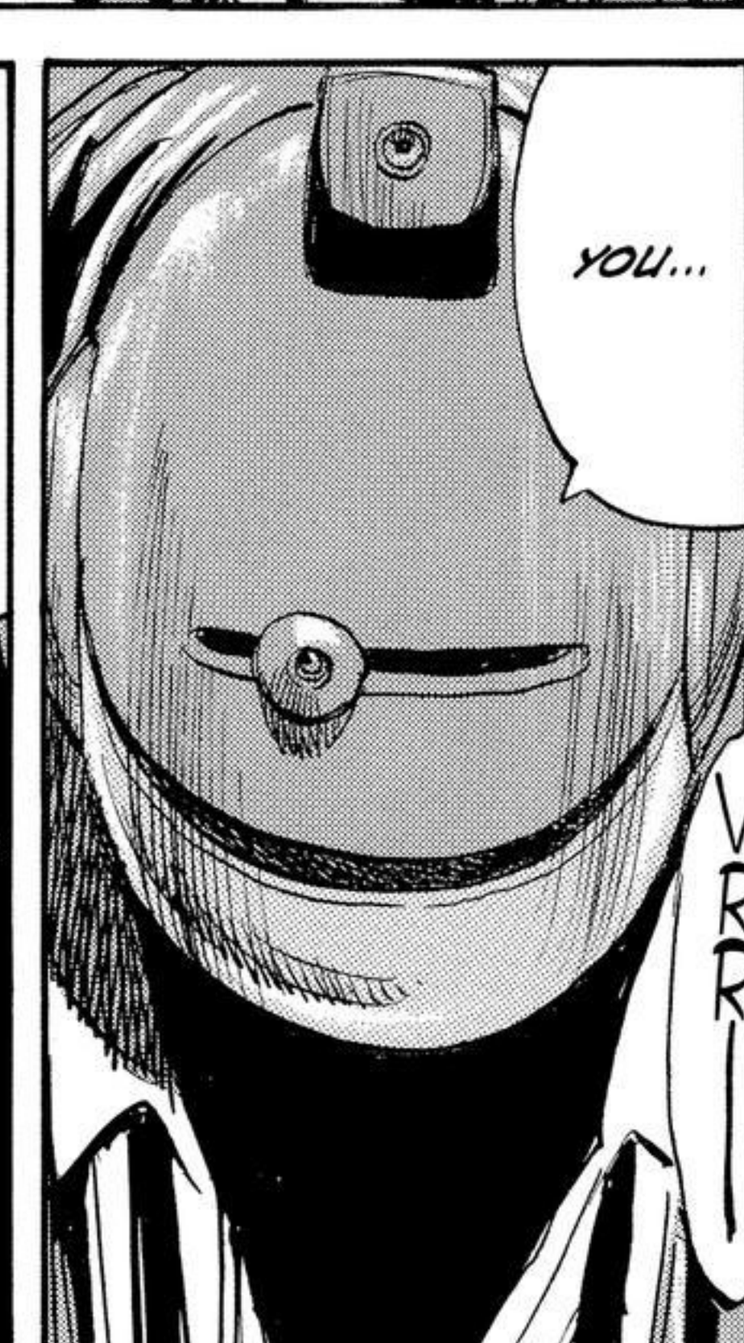

VRRR!

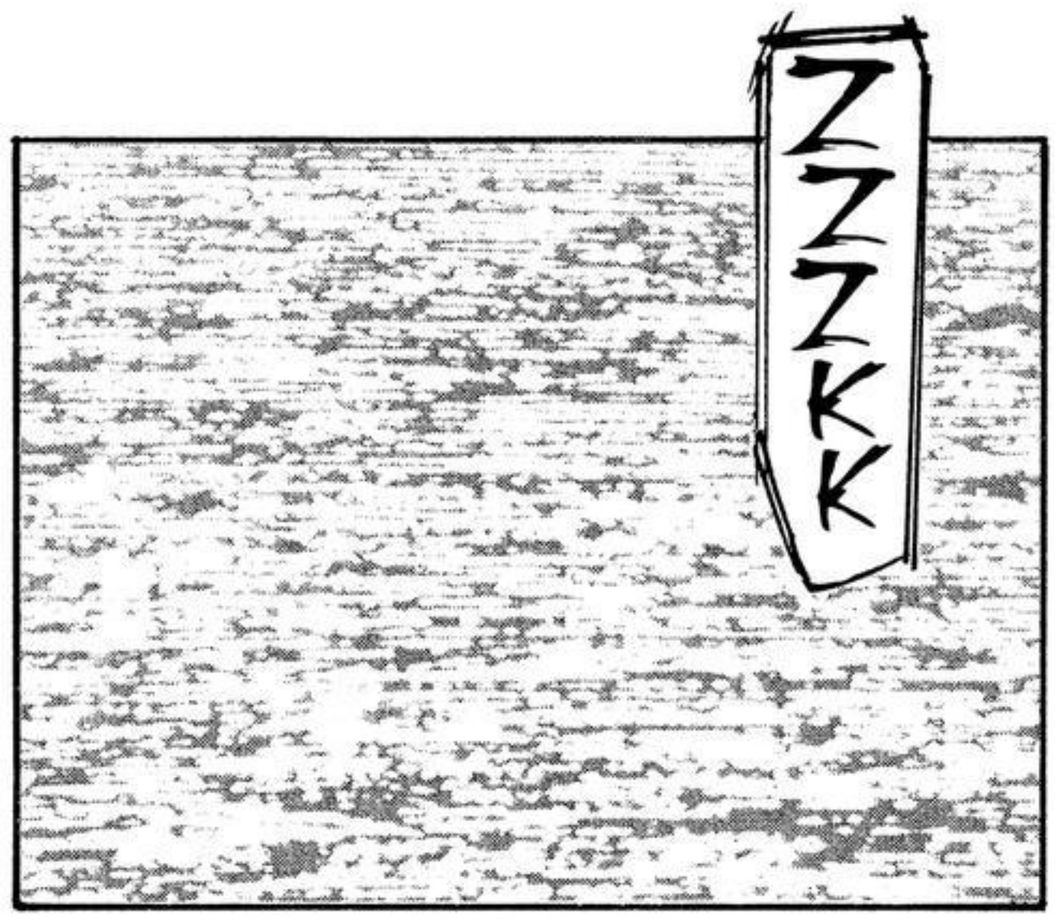

PROFESSOR HOFFMAN! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
PLEASE STAY CALM. DON'T DO ANYTHING TO PROVOKE HIM!

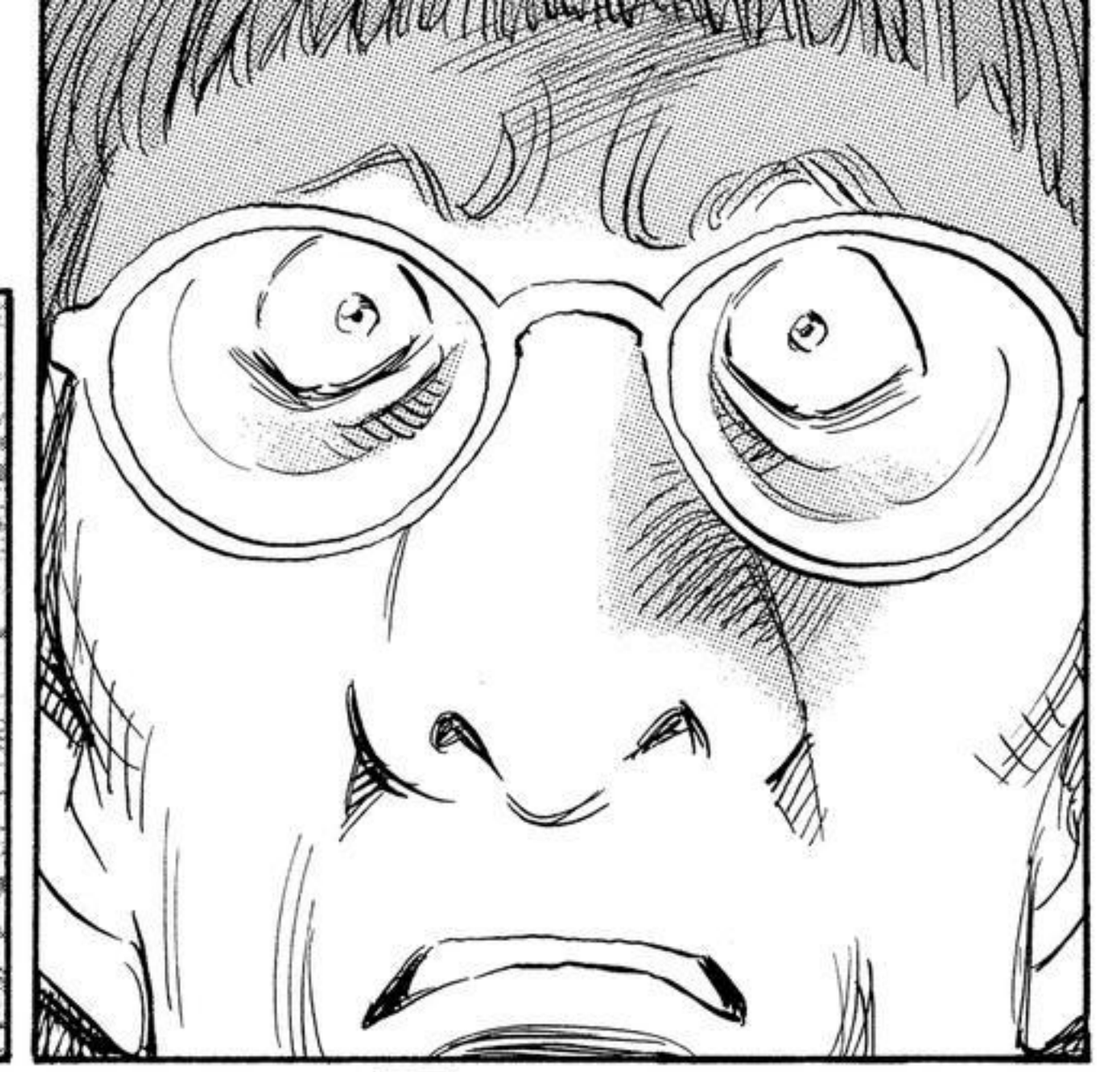

YOU...
YOU'RE THE ONE KILLING SCIENTISTS ONE AFTER THE OTHER...


KSHANK


VRRI
...MUST BE PUT TO DEATH.

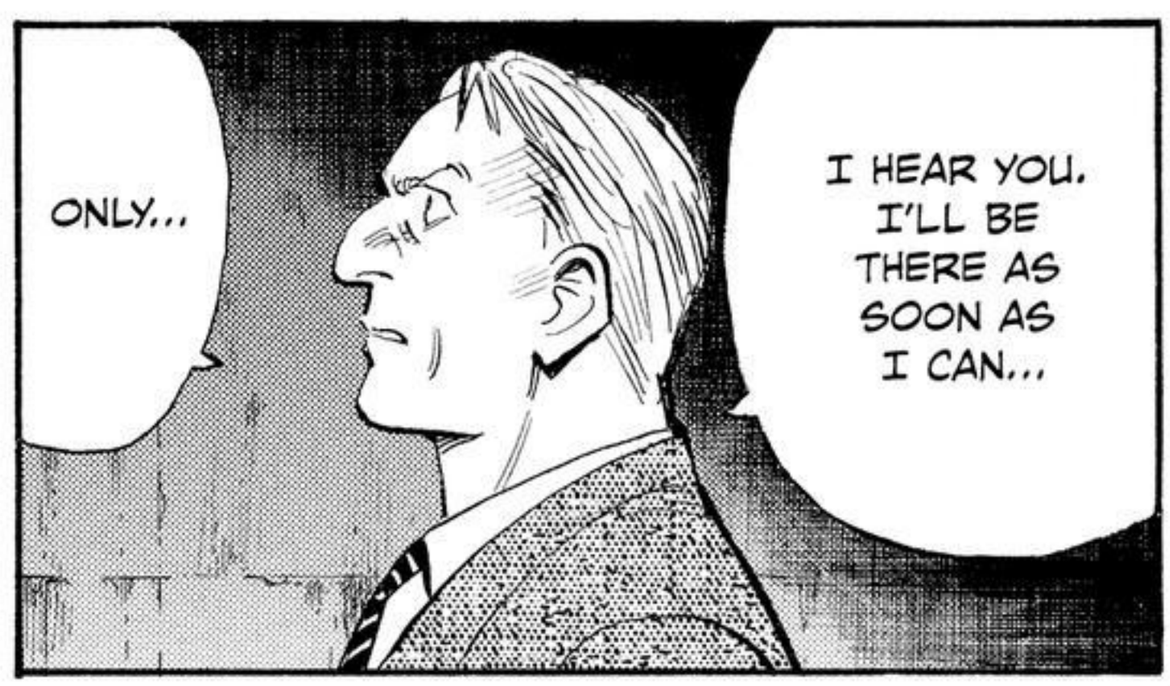

YOU...
VRRI

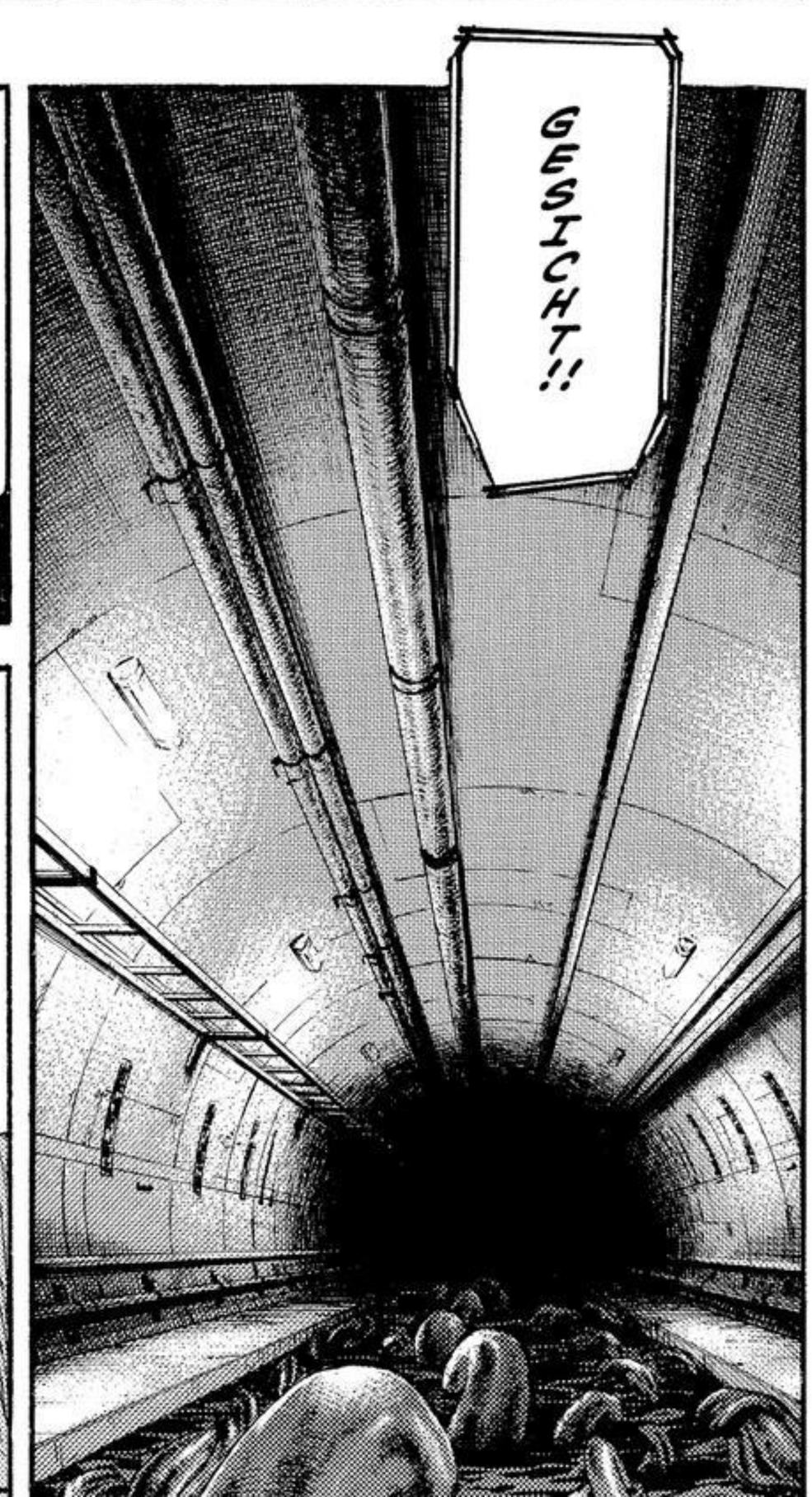

ZZZKK



PROFESSOR HOFFMAN HAS BEEN ABDUCTED!!

GESICHT! DO YOU COPY?!
BRZZZZ
GESICHT!!


ONLY...
I HEAR YOU. I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN...


GESICHT!!

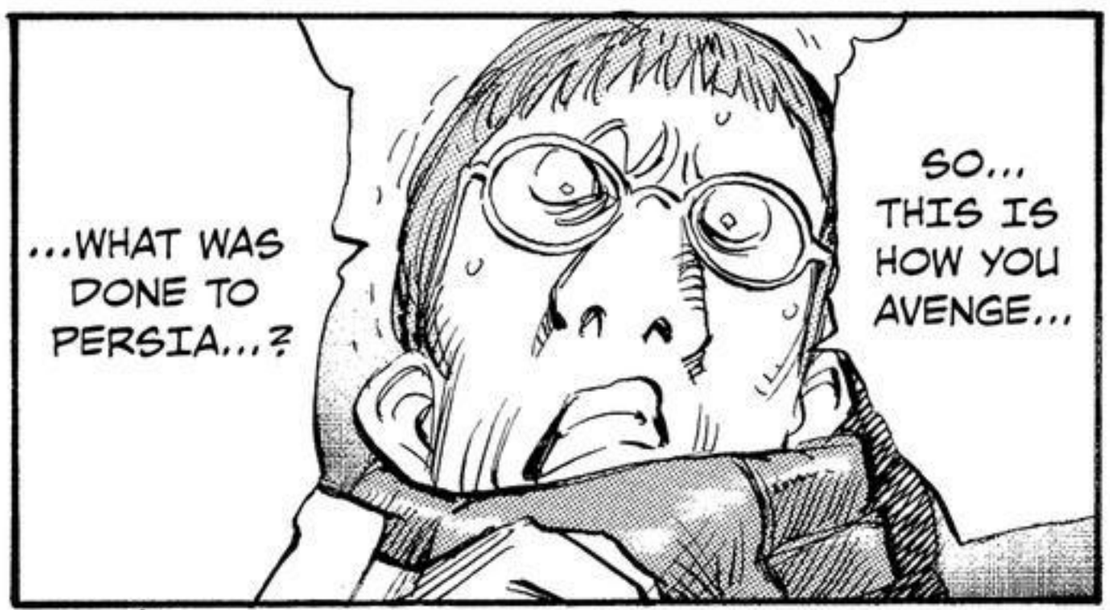
...RIGHT NOW... I'M FACE TO FACE WITH...

Act 44

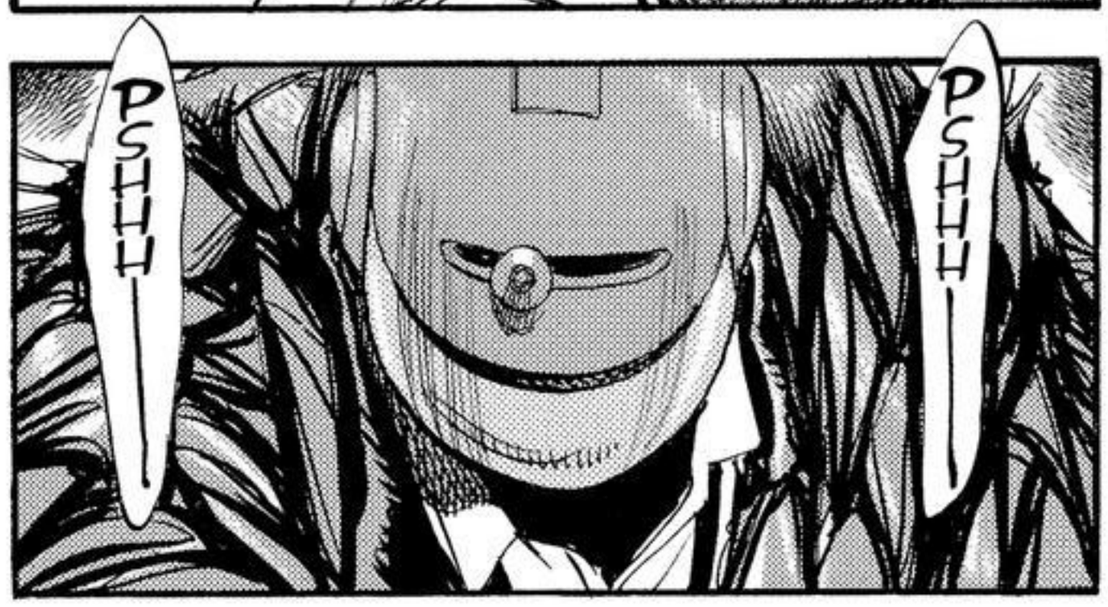
I AM PLUTO

KRE
GRAA

GKBB


...WHAT WAS DONE TO PERSIA...?
SO... THIS IS HOW YOU AVENGE...

ACK... UGH...


SHIII
SHIII

R
DING

B...BUT... WHAT DOES KILLING ME... SOLVE...?
I... FEEL SOME RESPONSI-BILITY... FOR WHAT HAPPENED...

BAM
BAM
OPEN UP! OPEN THE DOOR!

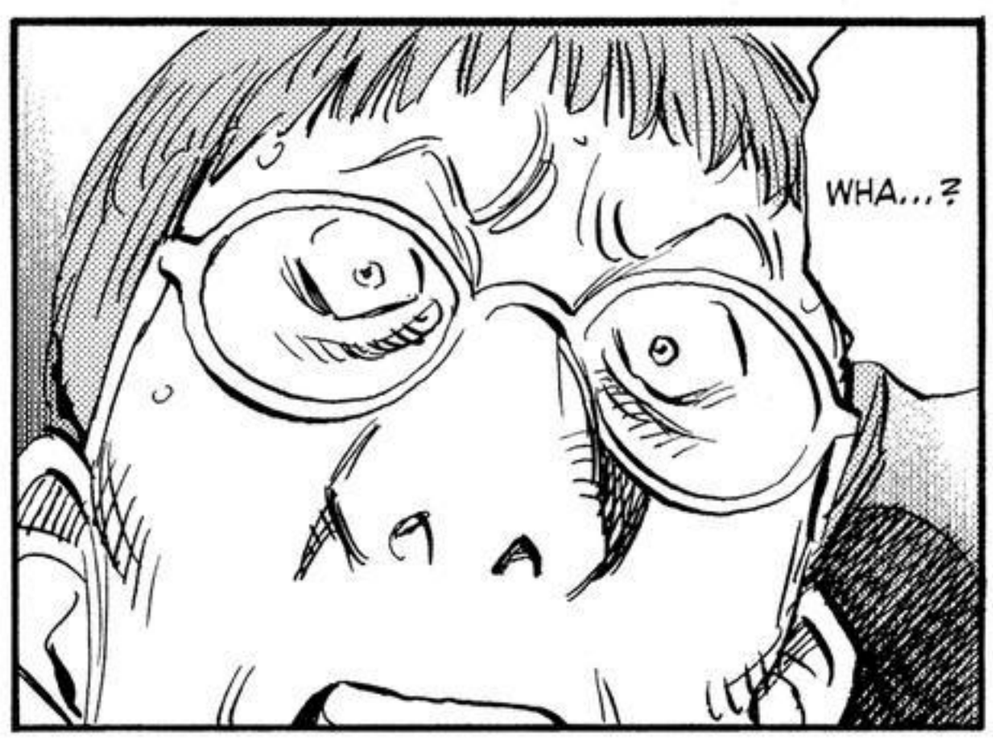
GRNCH GRNNCH
PROFESSOR HOFFMAN! WE'RE OPENING THE DOOR NOW!
HE... HE'S IN ON THIS TOO... RIGHT...?
TH... THAT MUST BE... YOUR PARTNER... WAITING AT THE... HELIPORT...
PROFESSOR! RUN!
GRNCH
KABOOM

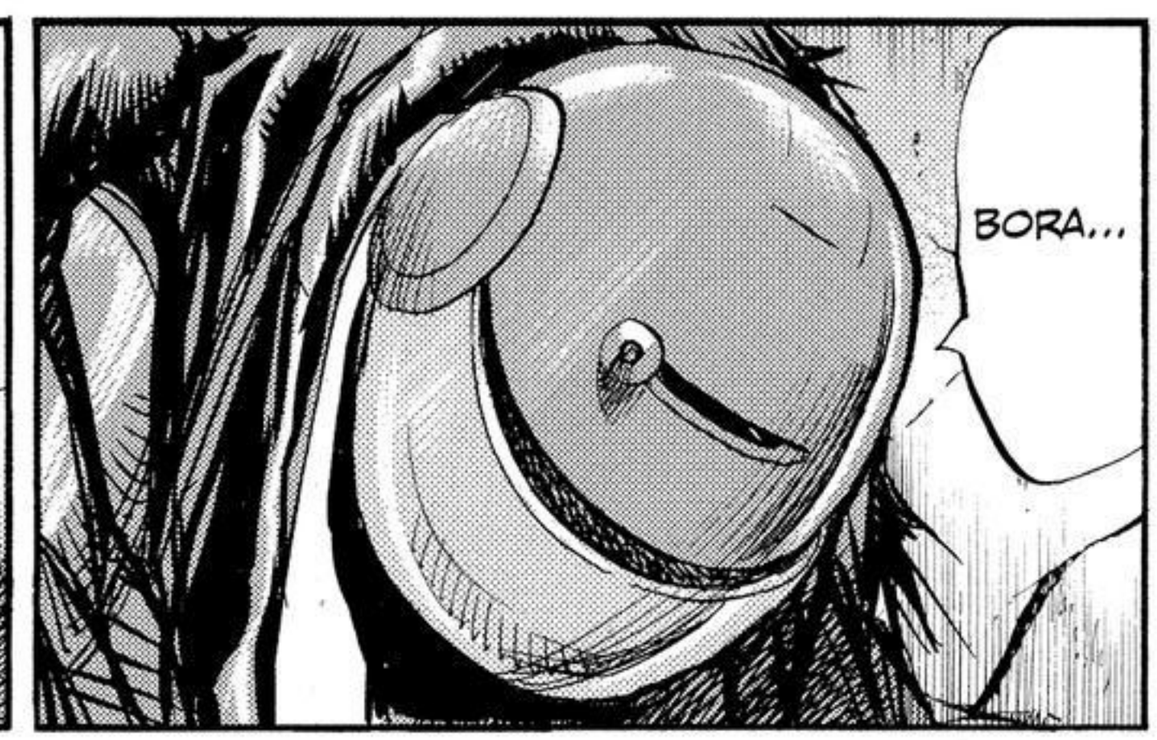
HUMPH
PSSH
GRAHH
SHIK
HORNS ...?
PSHH
PSHH

JUST... WHAT *ARE* YOU...?

PSHH
PSHH

SO... THAT'S HOW YOU PLAN TO KILL ME TOO...?


WHA...?


BORA...

BORA ...
KASHUNK
KASHUN

WHAT'RE ALL THESE COCKROACHES DOING HERE?

SQUAD A REPORTING! WE'RE ALMOST AT THE HELIPORT!
DASH

TARGET SIGHTED!!

WE PRESENTLY DO *NOT* HAVE A CLEAR SHOT!!
HE HAS PROFESSOR HOFFMAN AND IS ON THE MOVE...

WHA?
SHOOT ANYWAY!!

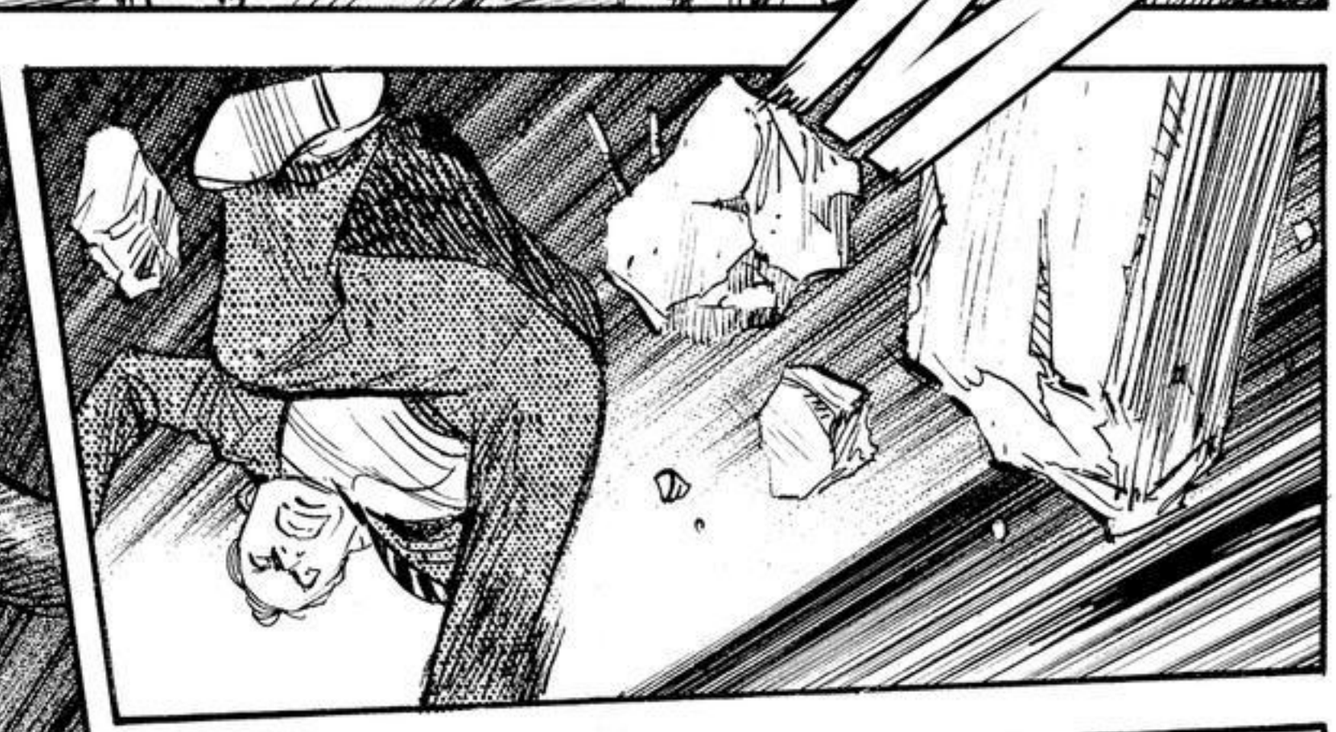
B...BUT, SIR... WHAT ABOUT THE PROFESSOR ...?!

I REPEAT, *SHOOT* ANYWAY.

SKDD

...

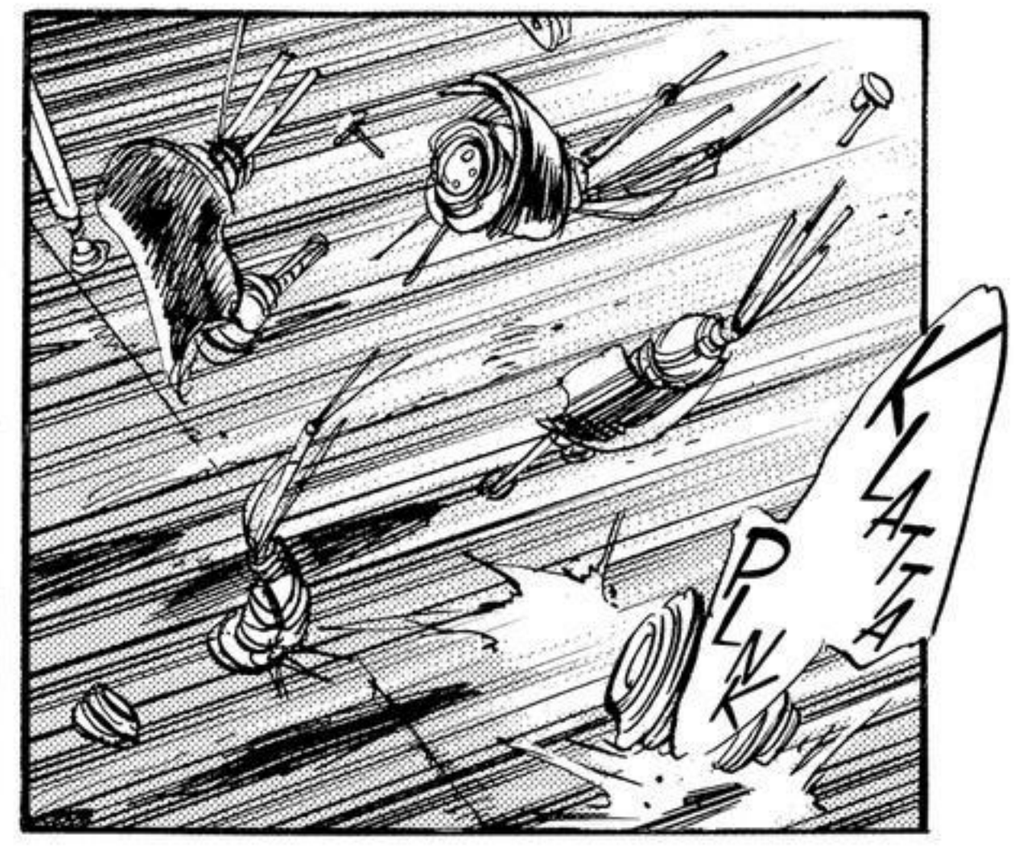
BBB



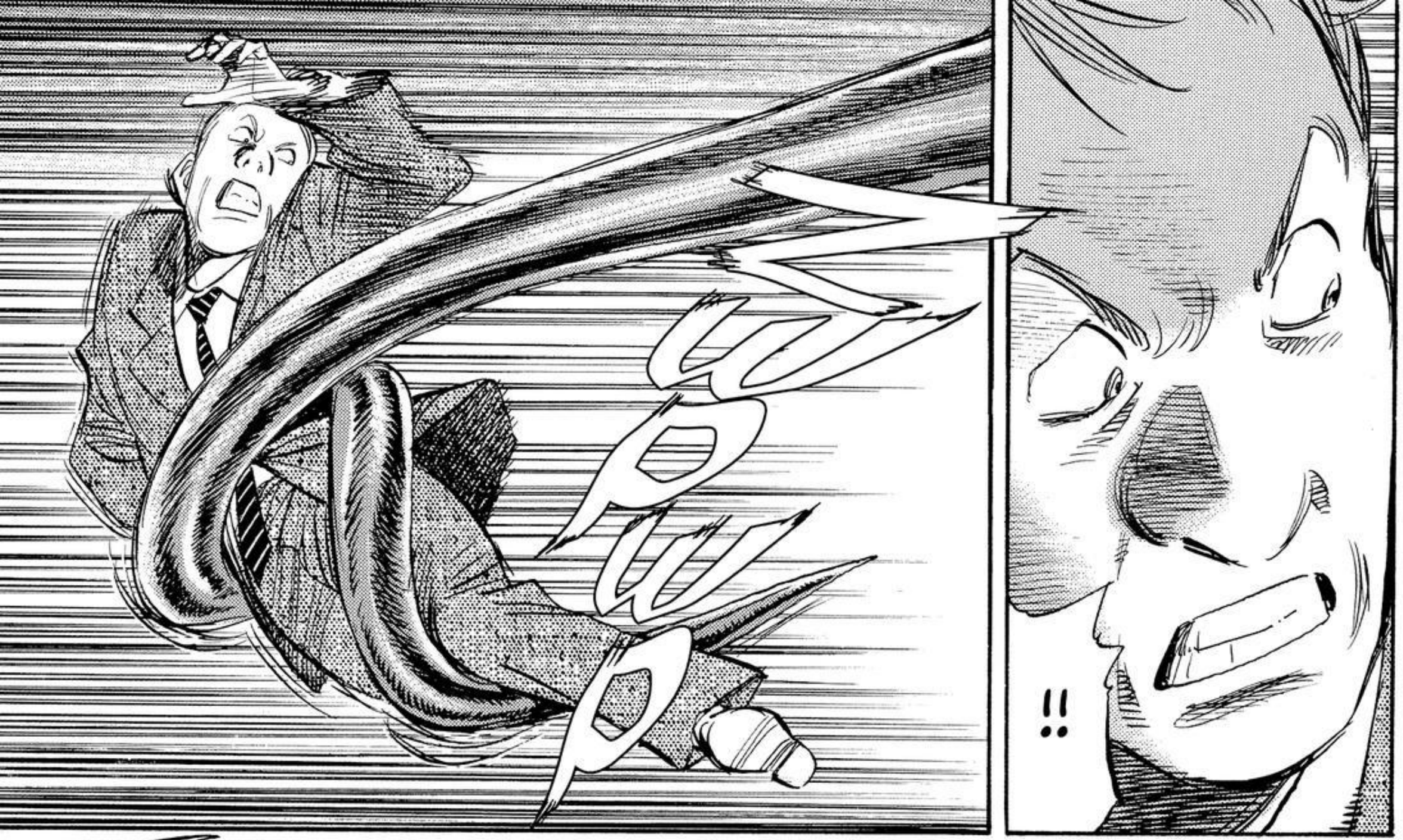
!!

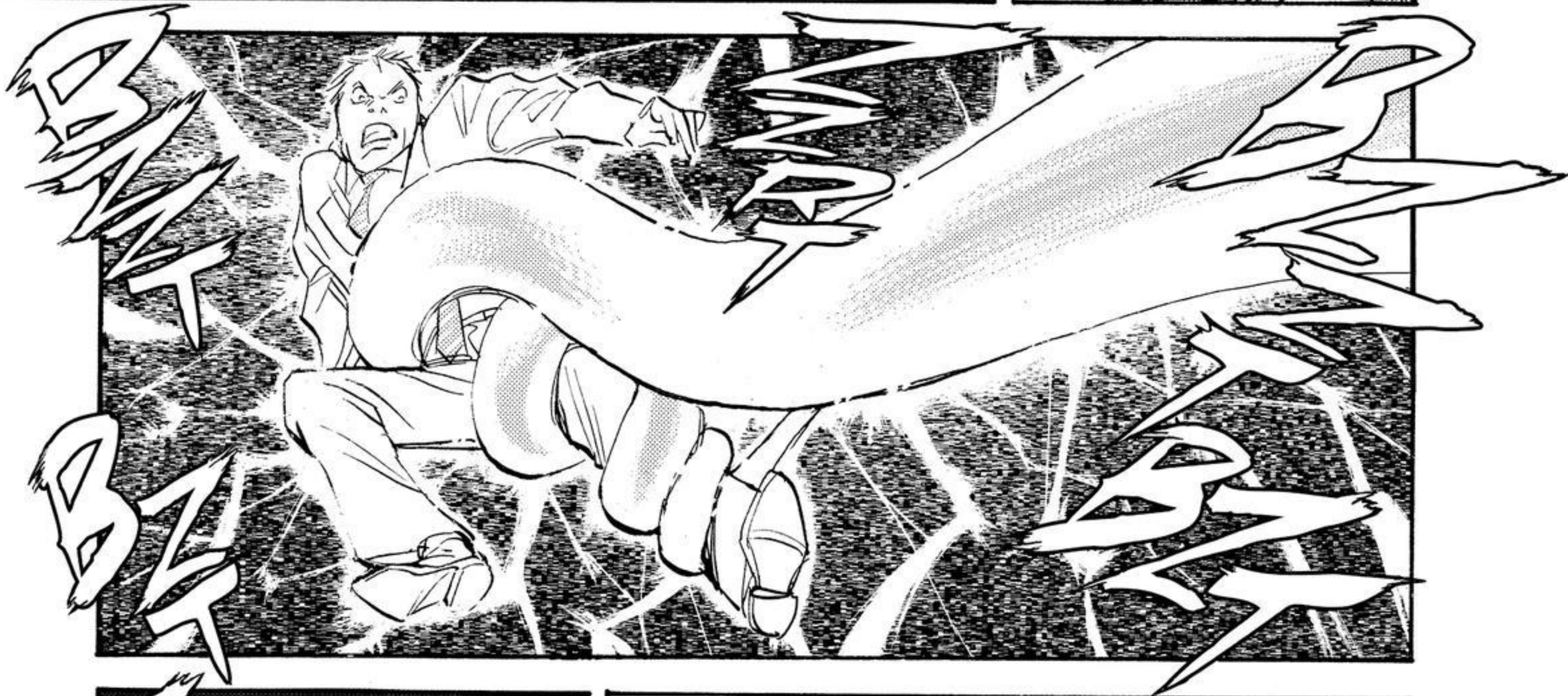
BUHO
W

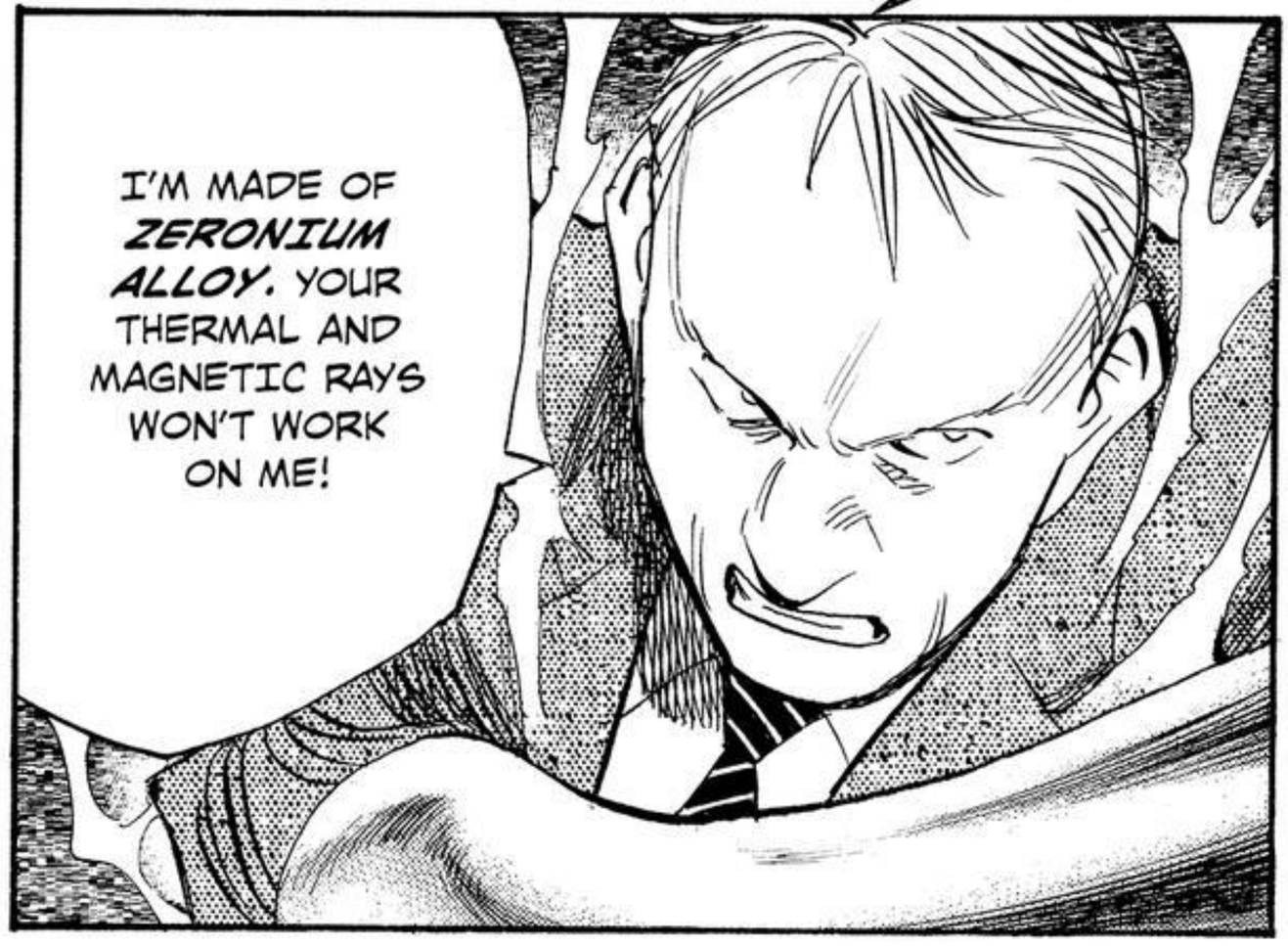
WHAT ABOUT THE PROFESSOR ?!

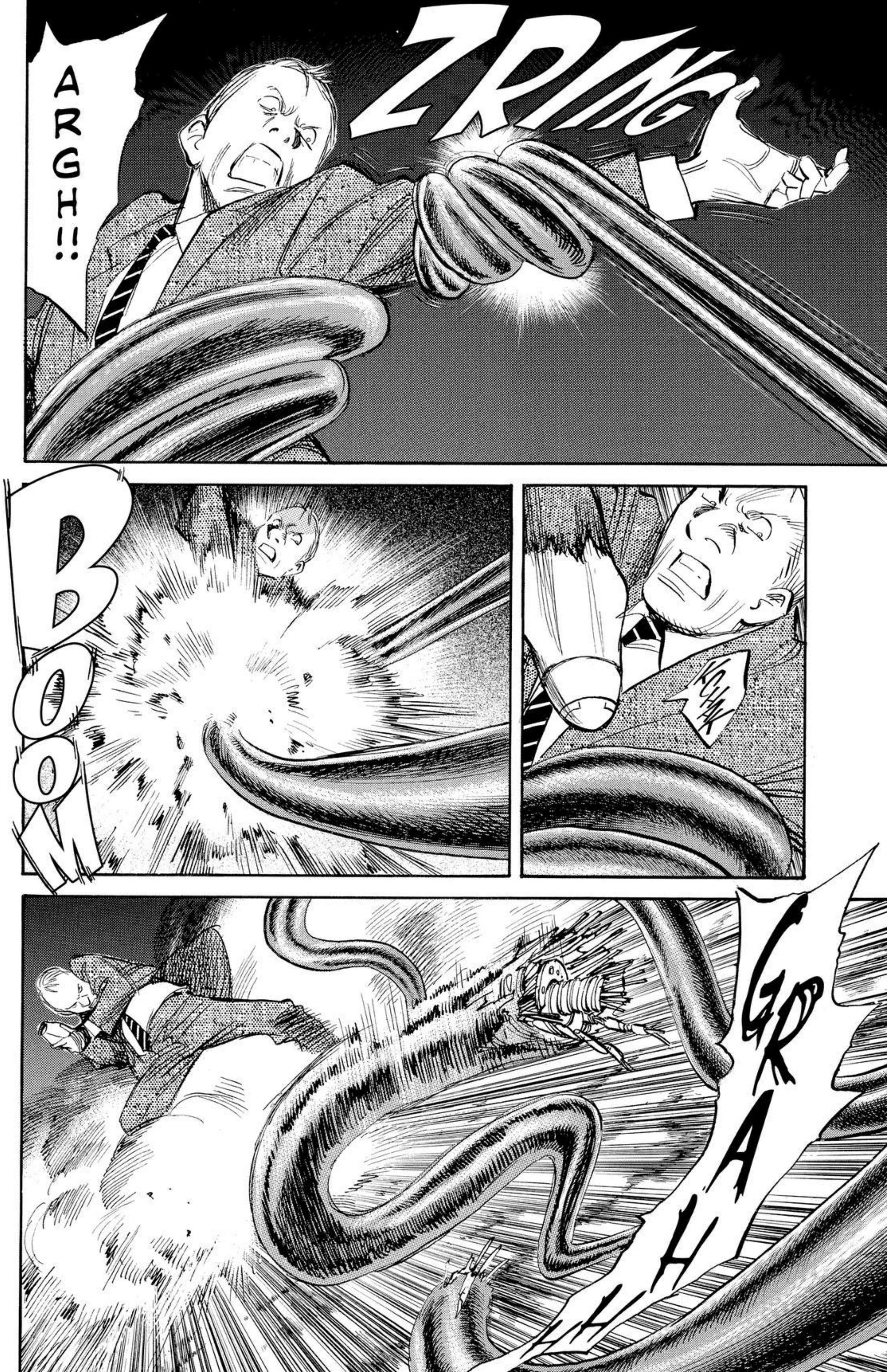

PLNK
LATTA

IS PROFESSOR HOFFMAN OKAY?!!

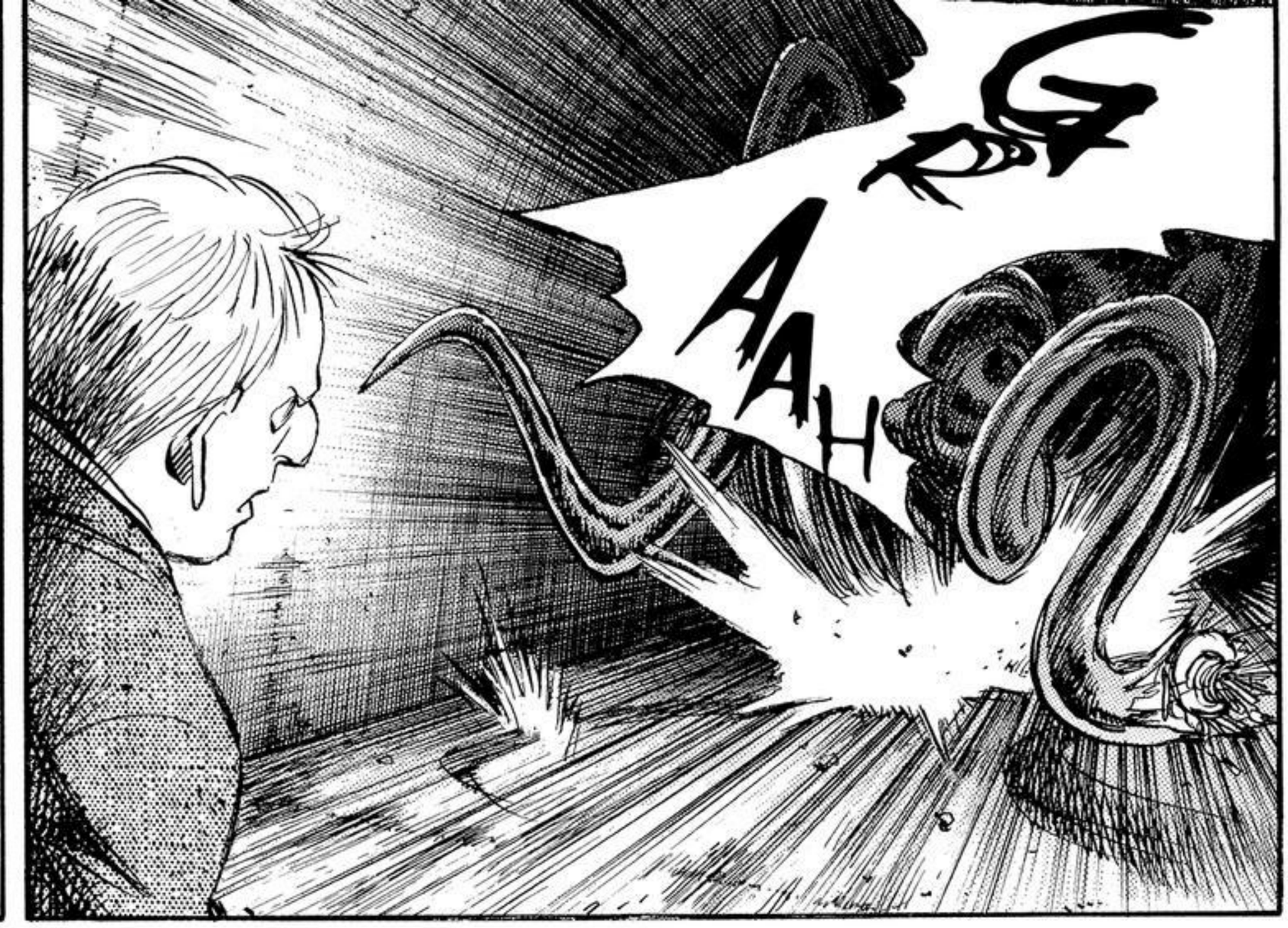

!!




I'M MADE OF *ZERONIUM ALLOY.* YOUR THERMAL AND MAGNETIC RAYS WON'T WORK ON ME!


ZRING
ARGH!!
BOOM
CHAK
GRAAAH

CHAK
DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT!


AAAH

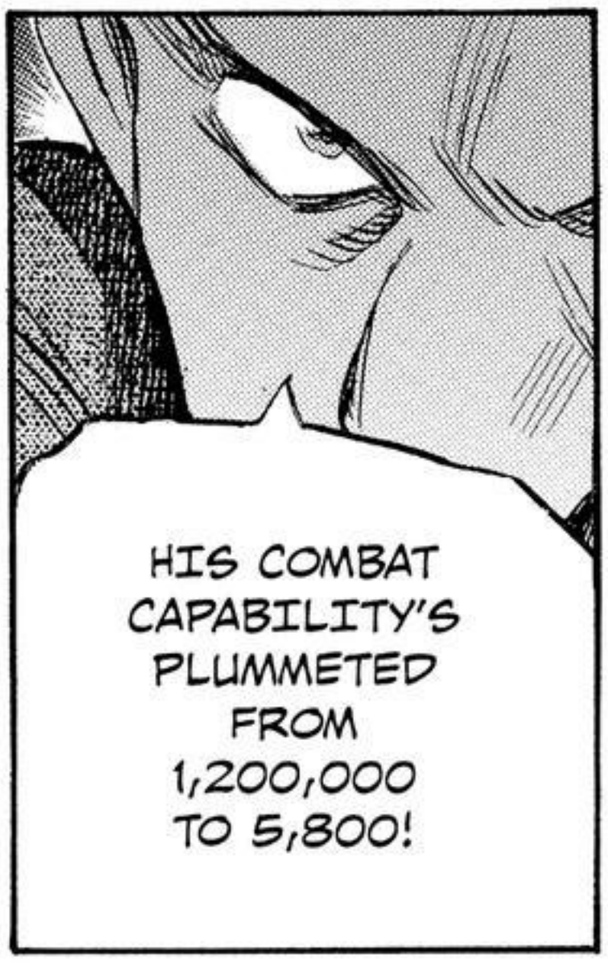
SHOOM

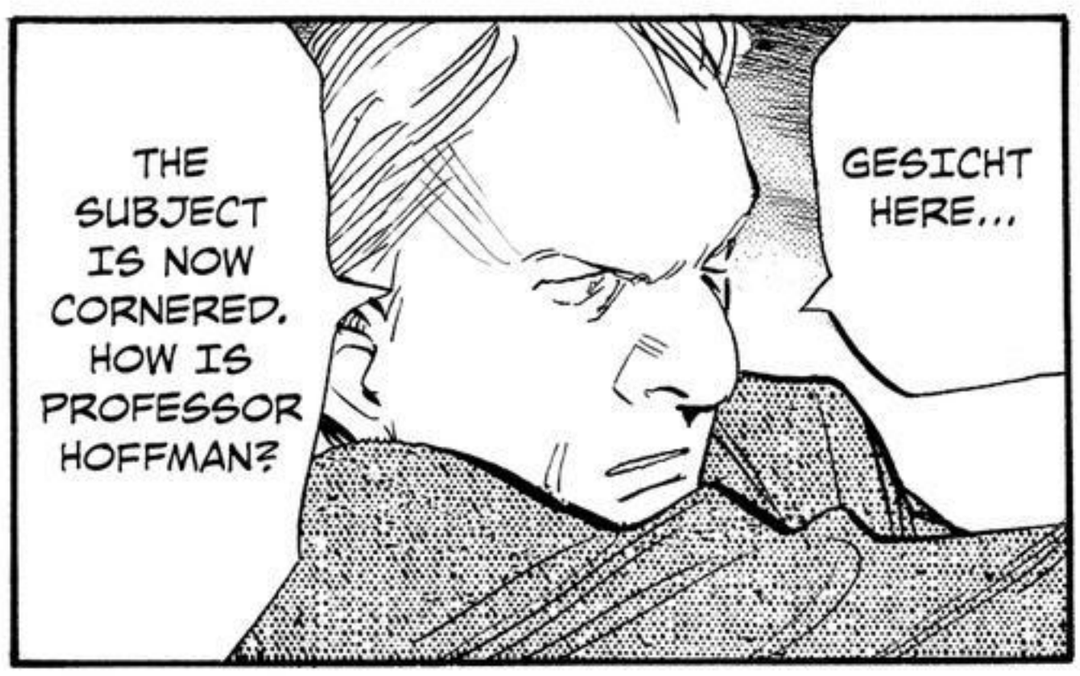
STOP!!
GRAHHH

BLAM

BOOM

THOOM




THE SUBJECT IS NOW CORNERED. HOW IS PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?
GESICHT HERE...

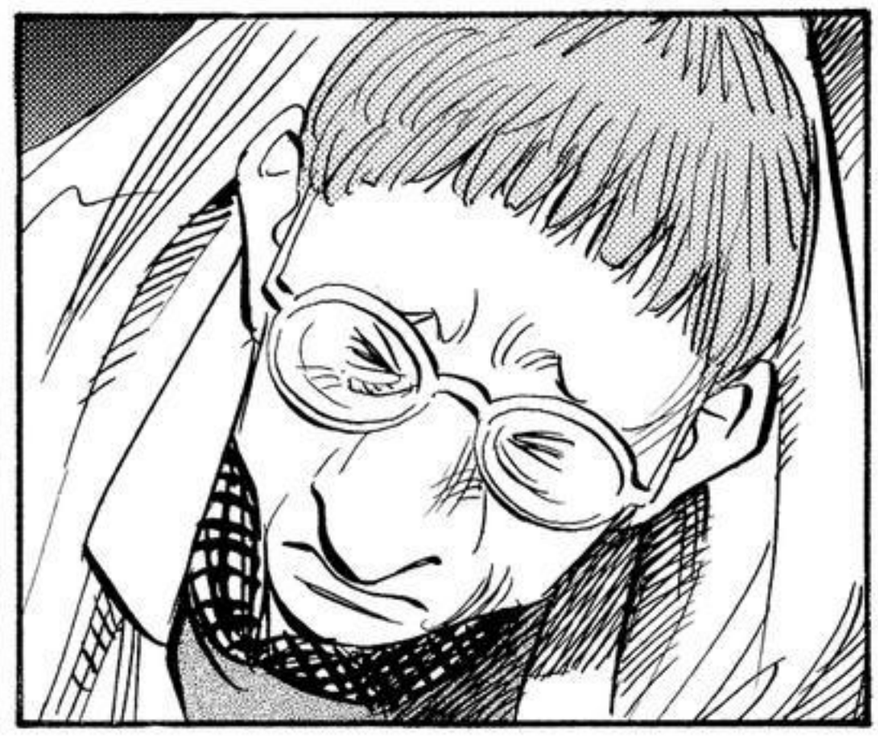
LOOKS LIKE HE BURIED HIMSELF ALIVE...

GO AHEAD AND DESTROY YOUR SUBJECT, GESICHT.
Y... YES... HE'S SAFE, GESICHT...

IS HE ALL RIGHT?

SIR, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

...



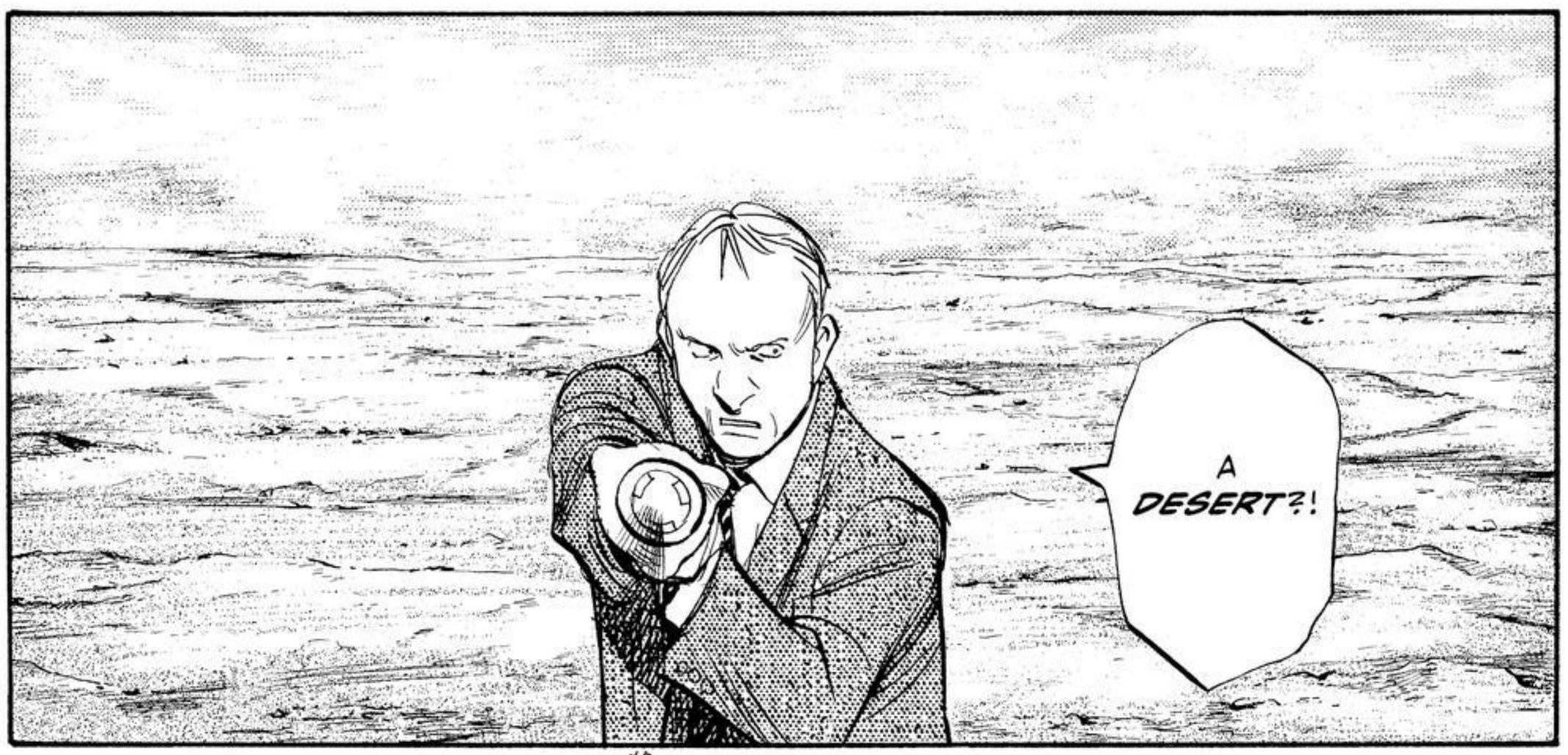
CHAK
CHAK

SHOOT HIM!! LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!!

CHAK

WHAT THE?

?!


A DESERT?!

BOOM
WHIII

WAAAAH!!

!!

WAAAH!!

WAAH!!

NOOO!!

IMAGES LIKE THAT HAVE NO EFFECT ON MY AI!!

A FIELD OF FLOWERS...

PLUTO...
PLUTO!!
NO!!
PLUTO!!

PLUTO!!

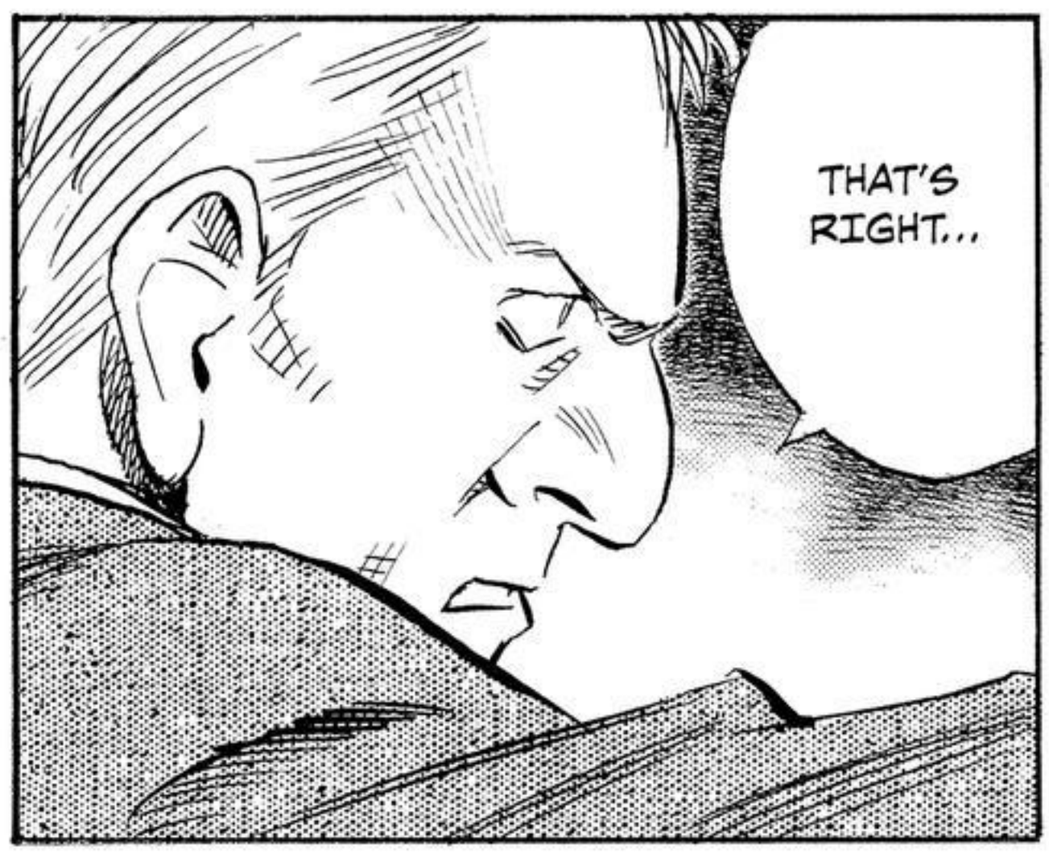
YOU'RE NOT PLUTO!

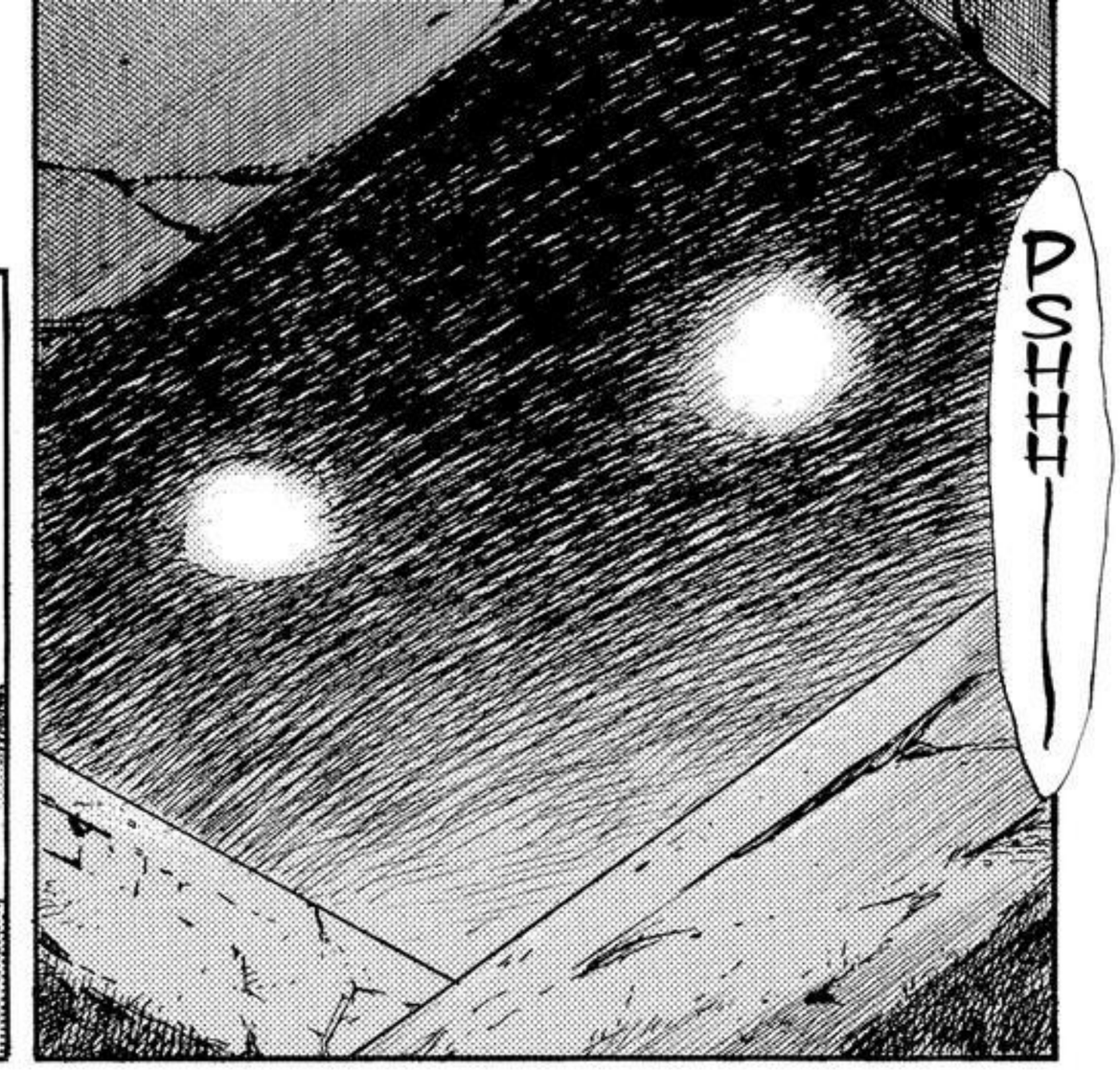
YOUR NAME IS *SAHAD*!!

Act 45 NEGOTIATION AND REPARATION

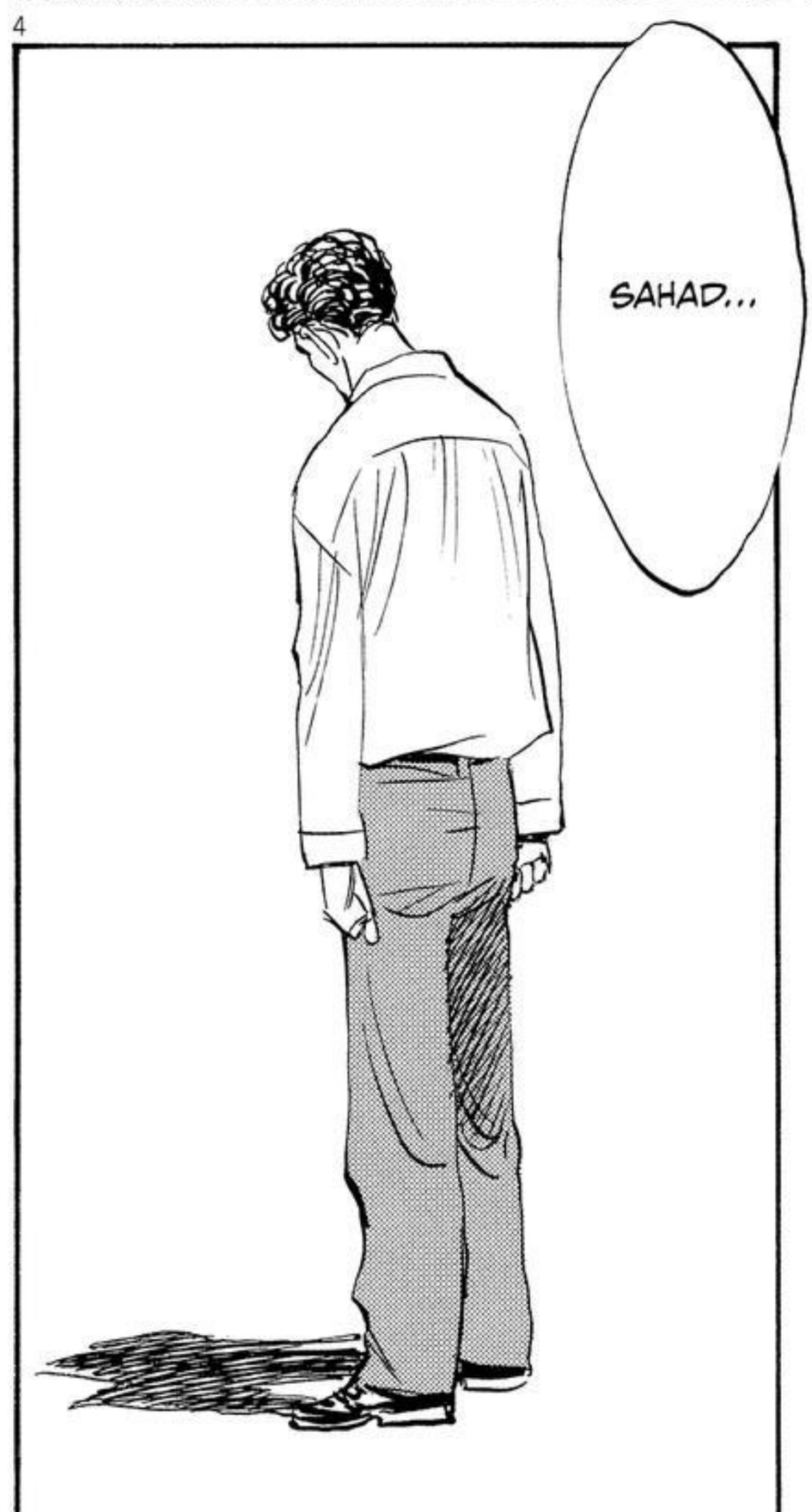
Act 45

NEGOTIATION AND REPARATION





4



SAHAD...

FATHER...

FATHER! YOU'RE ALIVE!
FATHER...

BUT I HAVE LOST EVERY-THING.
YES...

I'M SO HAPPY.
I'D HEARD YOU WERE KILLED IN THE BOMBINGS. THIS IS *WONDERFUL*...

...

I'VE LOST ALMOST ALL OF MY PHYSICAL BODY.
I'M SURE THAT YOU, A ROBOT, CAN UNDER-STAND.

AND YOUR ROBOT BROTHER *MURAT*!
BUT WORSE THAN THAT, I'VE LOST MY WIFE FATIMA, MY DAUGHTER LOLA...

THEY TOOK THE MOST PRECIOUS THING IN THE WORLD FROM ME-- MY FAMILY!!

YOU, SAHAD...

FATHER...
THE JEWEL OF MY EXISTENCE!

...ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT NOW.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M FEELING.
YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

JUST YOU... JUST YOU...

HATRED...

ZWMM

YOU MUST DEFEND THIS NATION.

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...

VWM

VWM

YOU MUST NOT LET ANYONE ELSE FEEL THE GRIEF I HAVE EXPERIENCED.

YOU MUST NOT LET THEM KILL ANY MORE OF OUR PEOPLE.

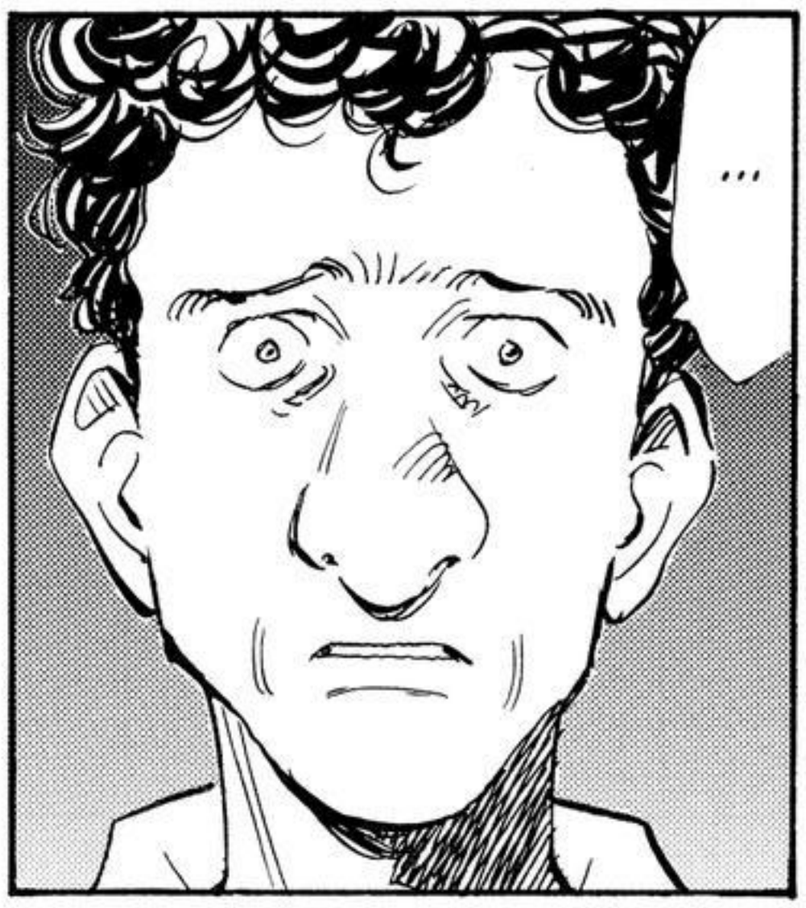
YOU MUST TAKE *REVENGE*...

ZWMM
PSHH—

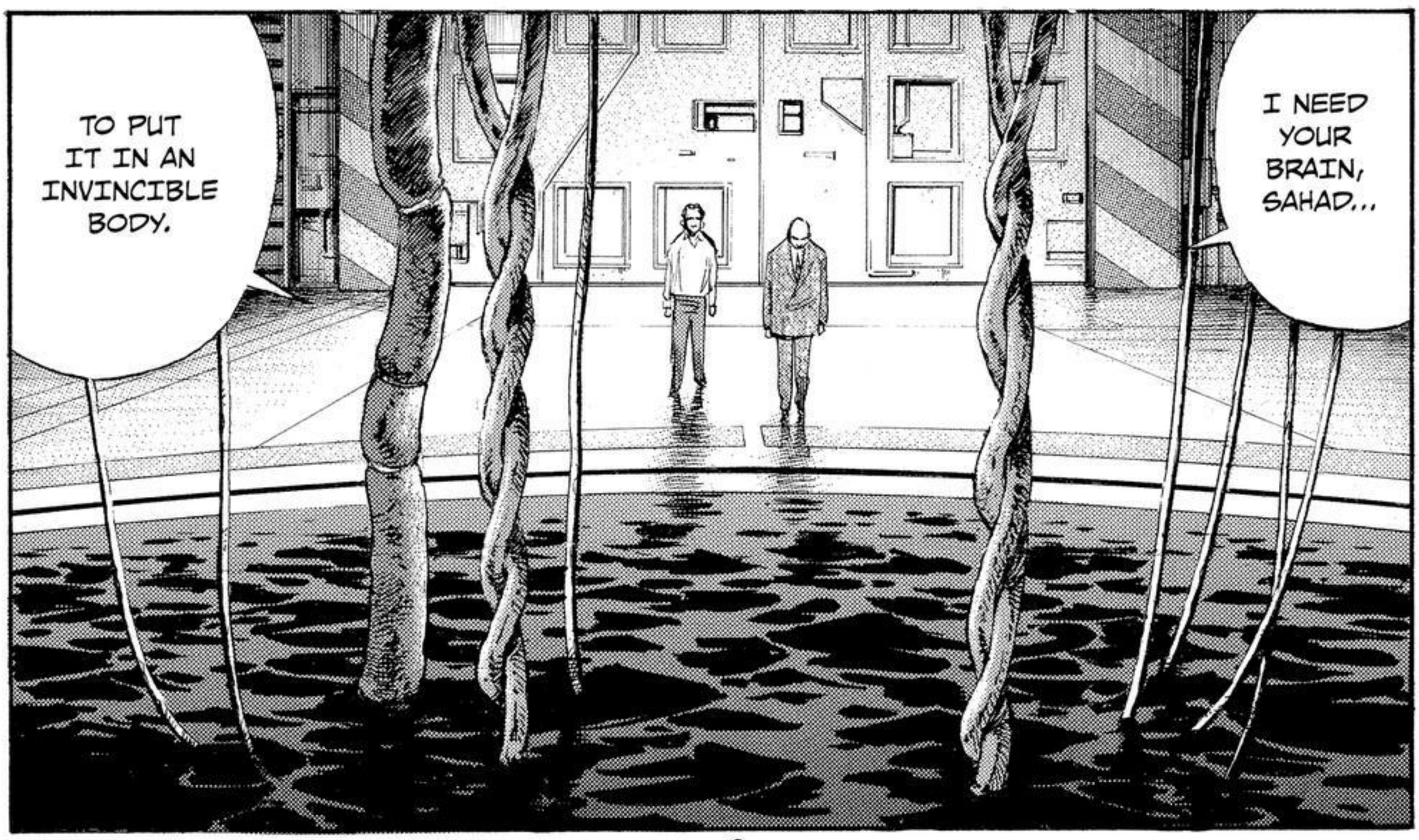
THE HATRED WILL *NEVER* GO AWAY...

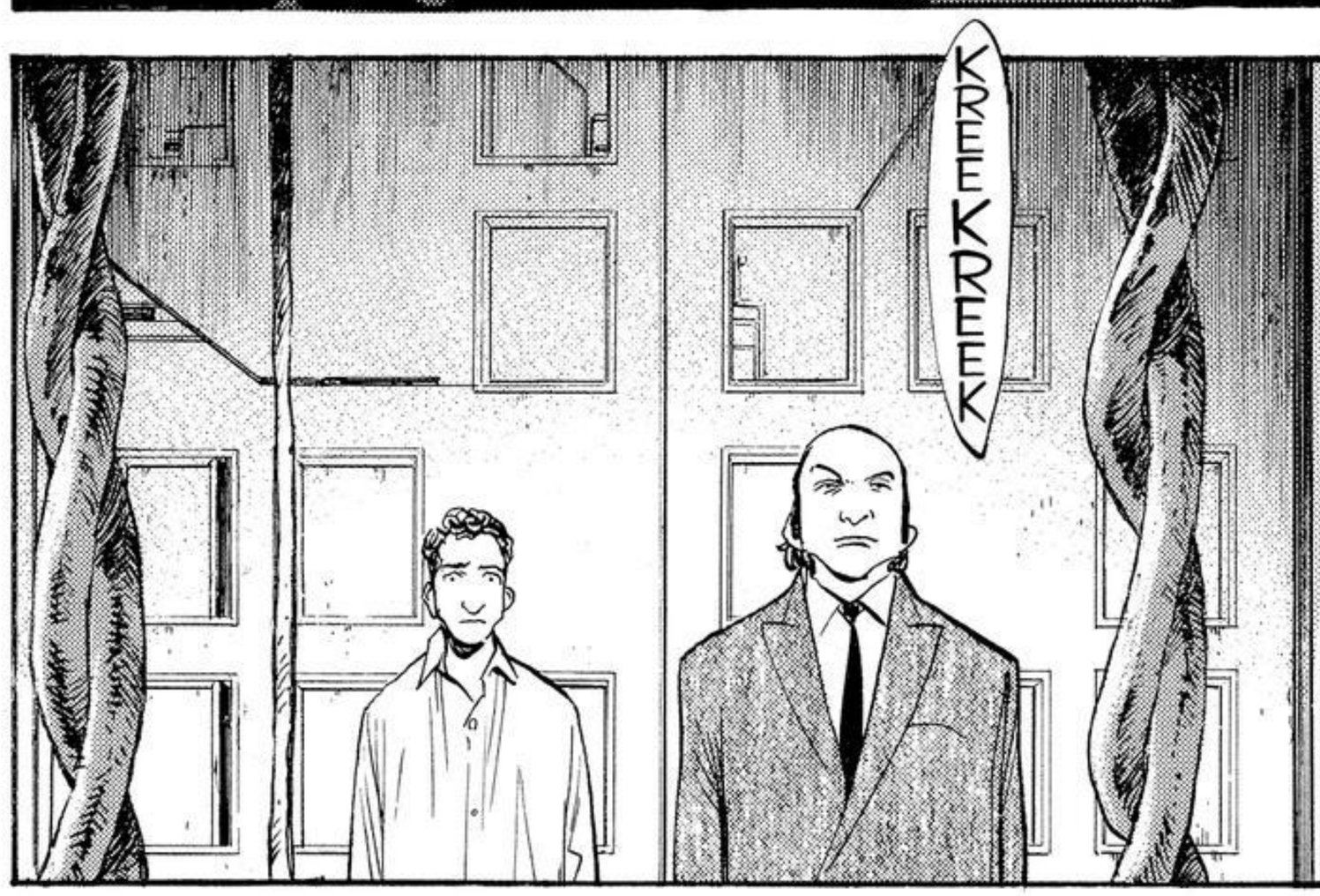
BUT, FATHER! THIS WAR WILL BE OVER SOON!!
REVENGE ONLY BEGETS MORE REVENGE!!

THAT'S RIGHT.


...

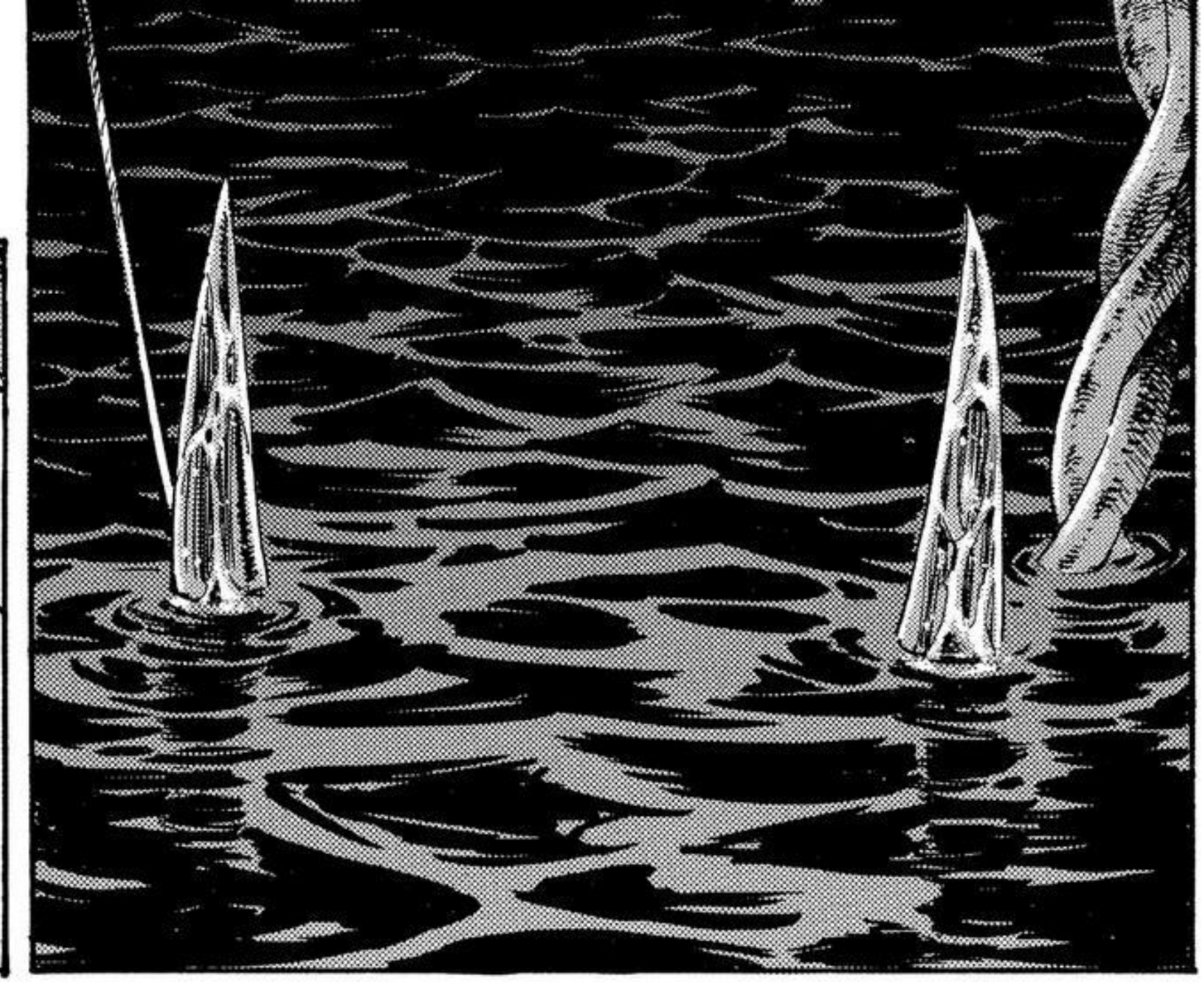
HATRED ...
... NEVER GOES AWAY ...

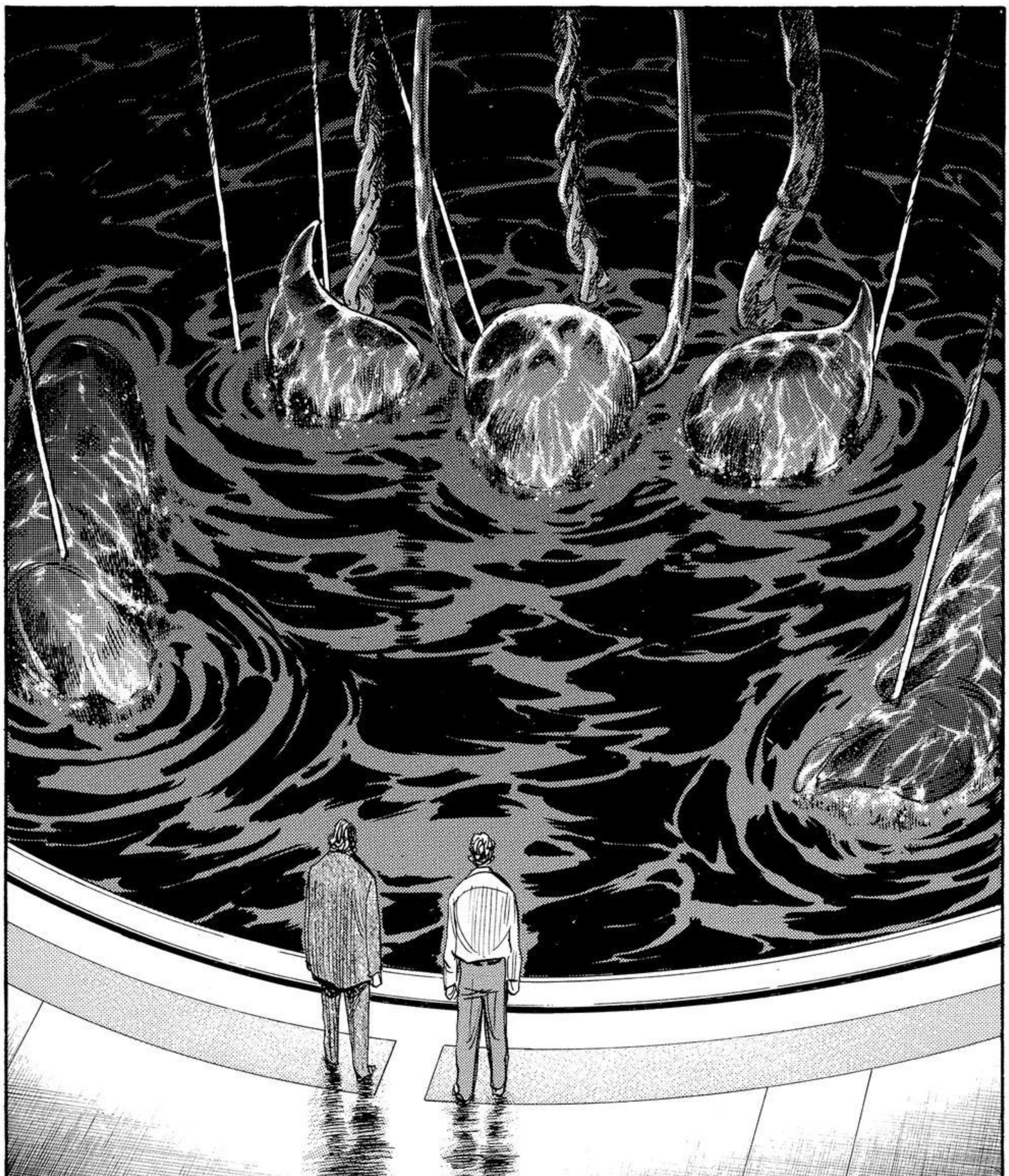

TO PUT IT IN AN INVINCIBLE BODY.
I NEED YOUR BRAIN, SAHAD...


KREEKREEK

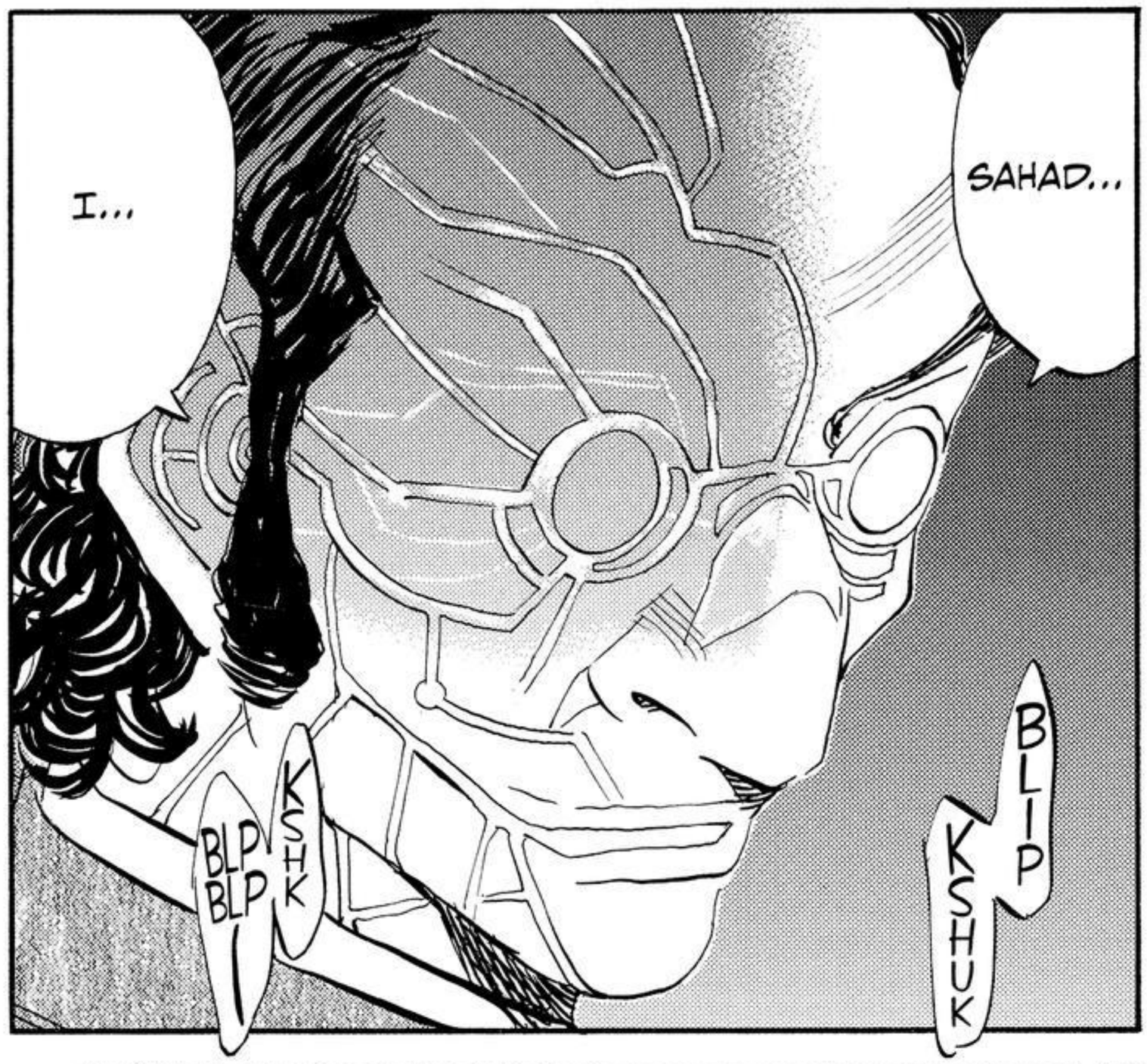
AN INVINCIBLE BODY...?

WHAT...

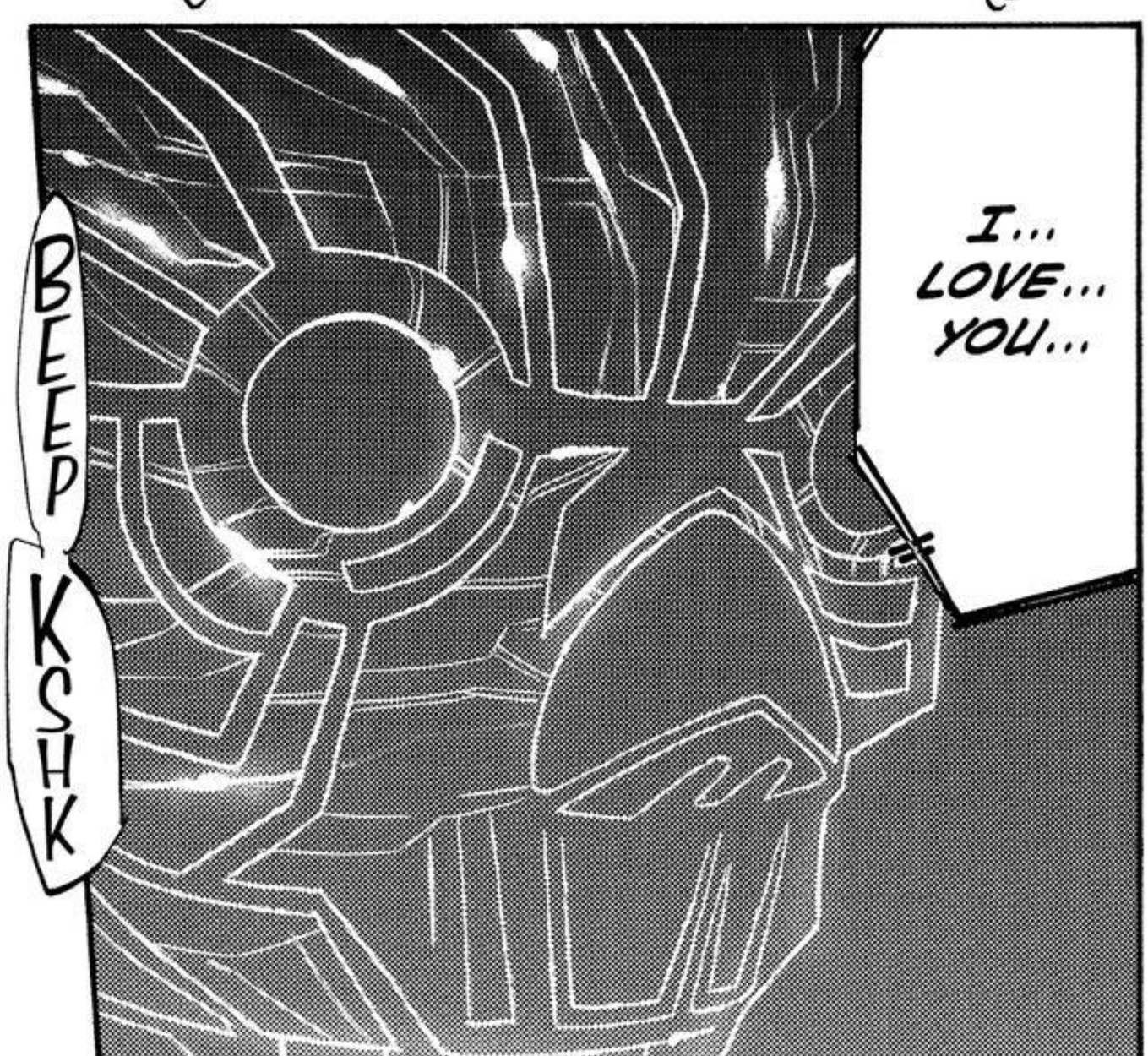




WHAT IS THIS...?


I...
SAHAD...
BLP BLP
KSHK
BLIP
KSHUK

I LOVE YOU!


BEEP
KSHK
I... LOVE... YOU...

FATHER ...

PSHH—

PSHH—

PSHH—

PSHH—

!!

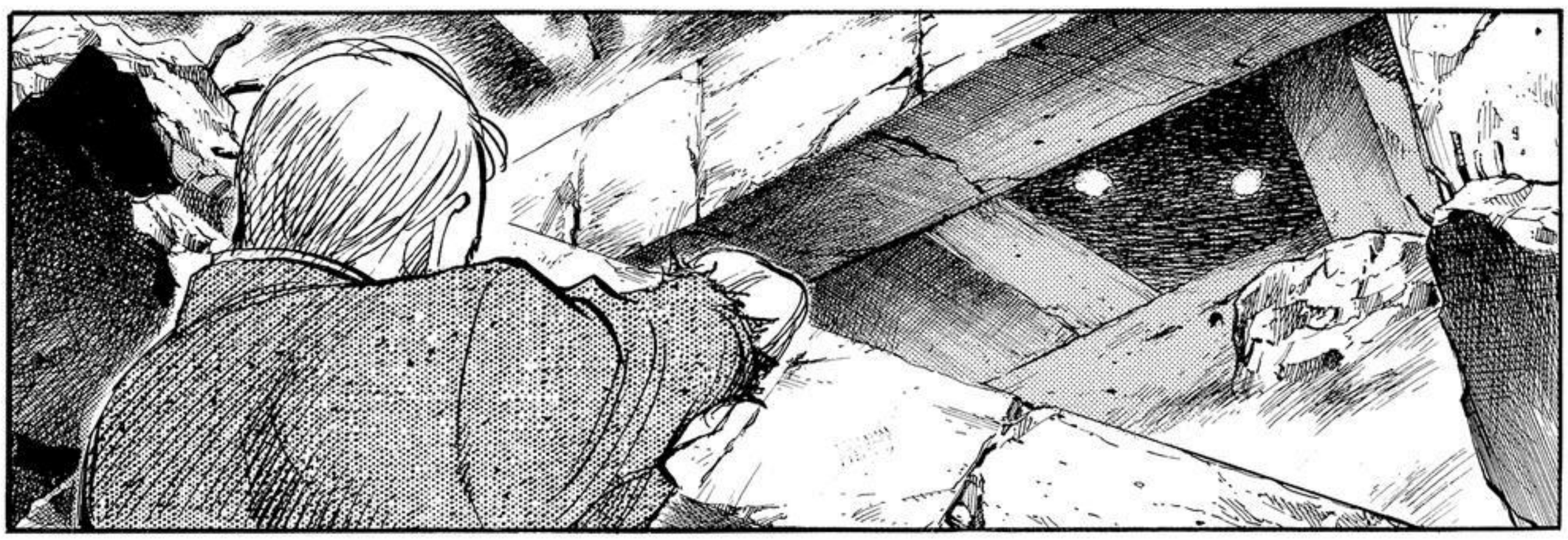
GESICHT!! DO YOU COPY?!

...

YOU HAVE MY AUTHORI-ZATION! DESTROY HIM!!

GO AHEAD! SHOOT!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, GESICHT?! SHOOT HIM!!

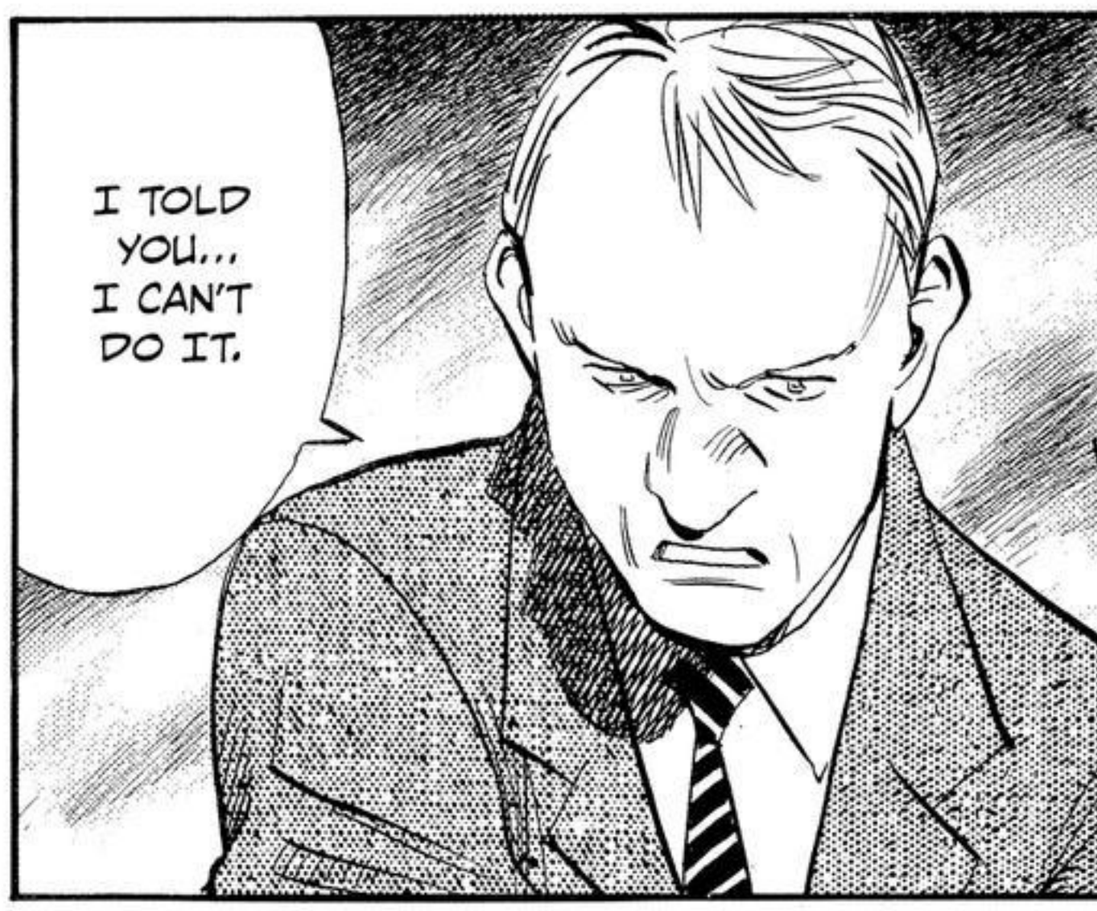


WHAT...? WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

NO.

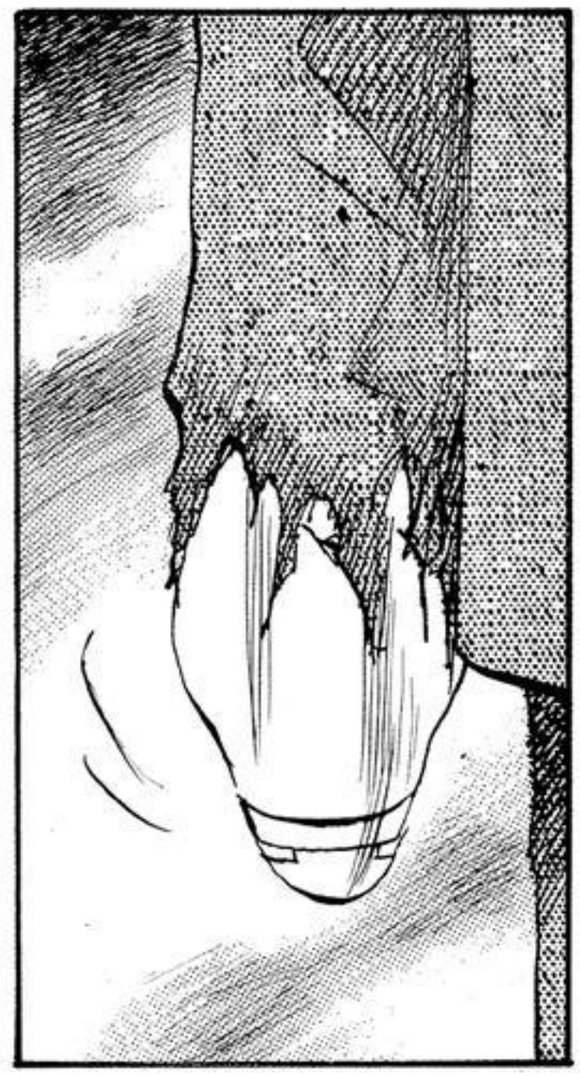
I AM NOT PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY A ROBOT THAT HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING ME.

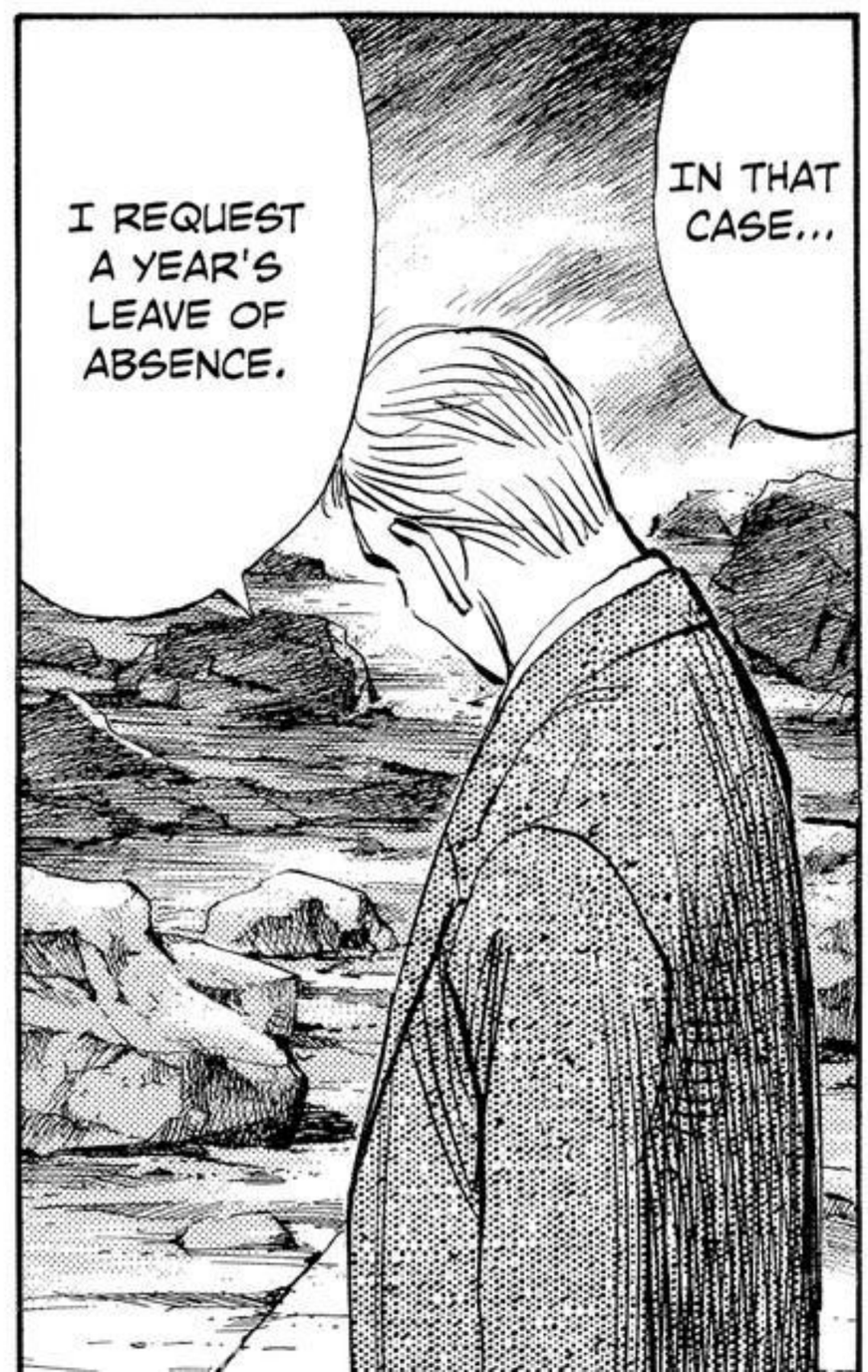
GESICHT!!


I TOLD YOU... I CAN'T DO IT.
I'M GIVING YOU ONE LAST CHANCE. DESTROY THE SUBJECT NOW!!

DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO RESIGN MY POSITION?

CAPTAIN BECKER...




IN THAT CASE...
I REQUEST A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

WHAT?!

YOU WERE DEVELOPED TO BE A ROBOT DETECTIVE. YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER!!
ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE, GESICHT!!

I'M SPENT...
I...

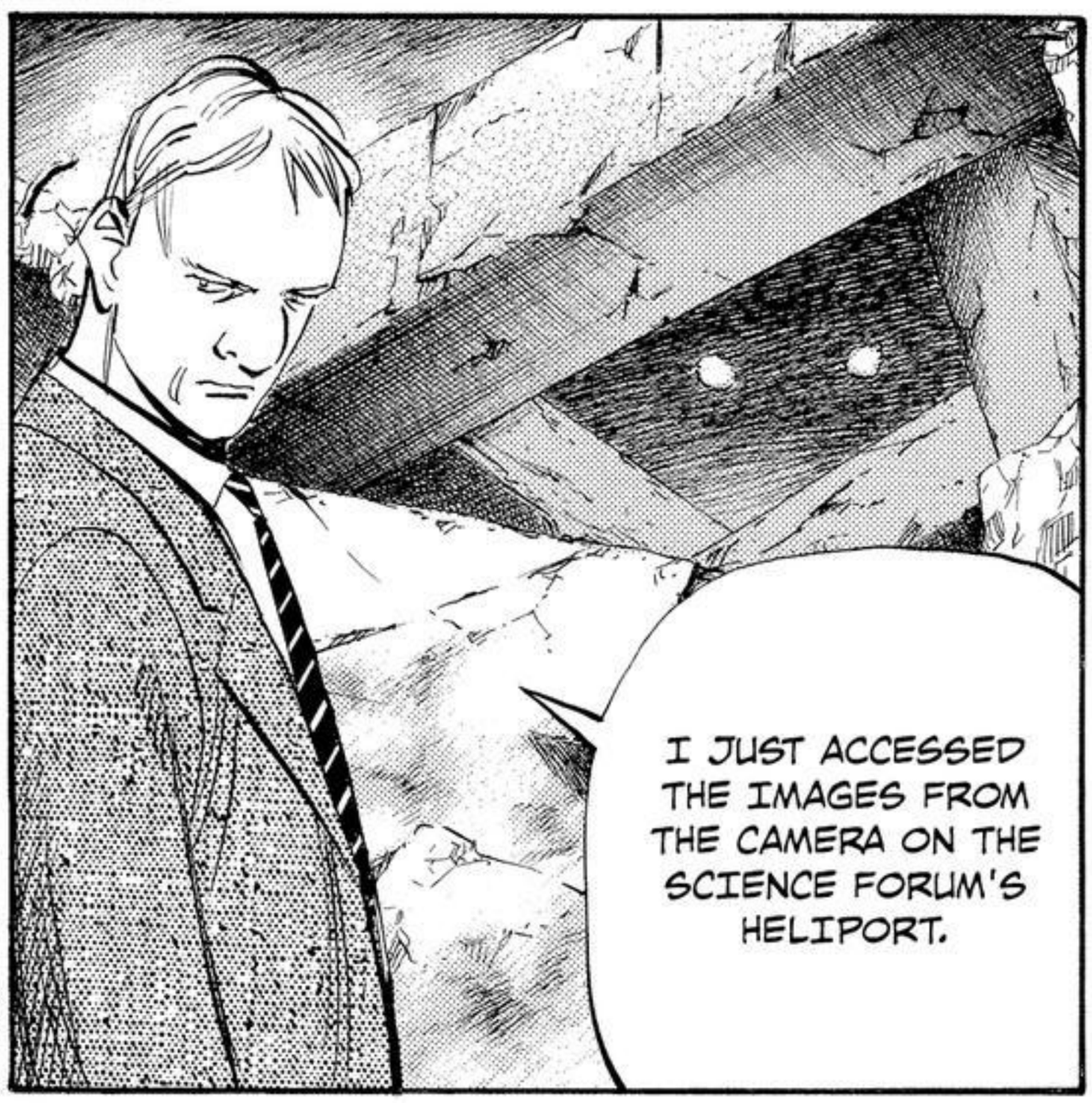
YOU WHAT ...?

PSHH—
PSHH—

YES...

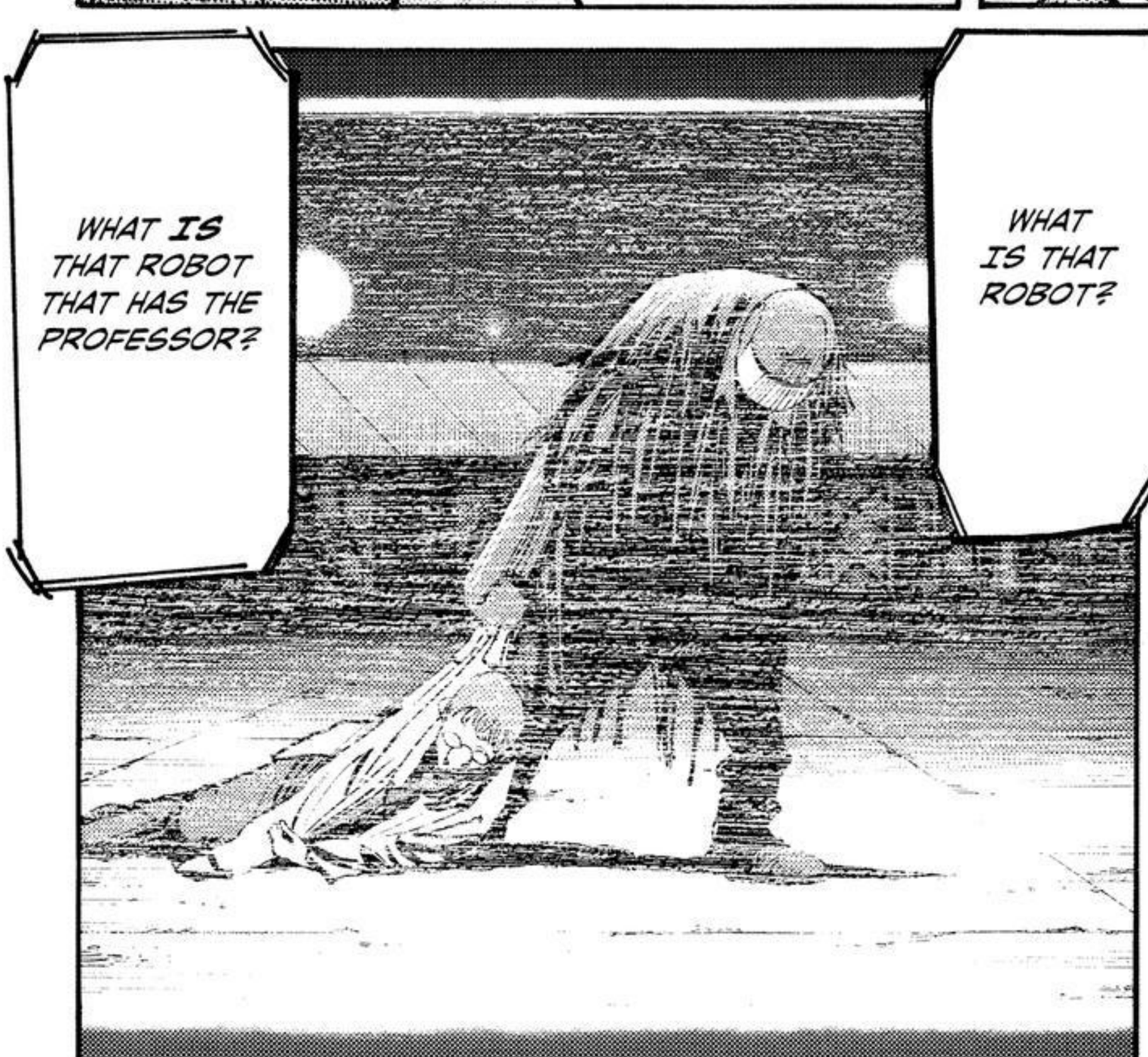
HOW IS PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?
UH...

HOW IS PROFESSOR HOFFMAN?
GESICHT, I'M ORDERING YOU ONE LAST TIME. DESTROY YOUR SUBJECT NOW!!


I JUST ACCESSED THE IMAGES FROM THE CAMERA ON THE SCIENCE FORUM'S HELIPORT.

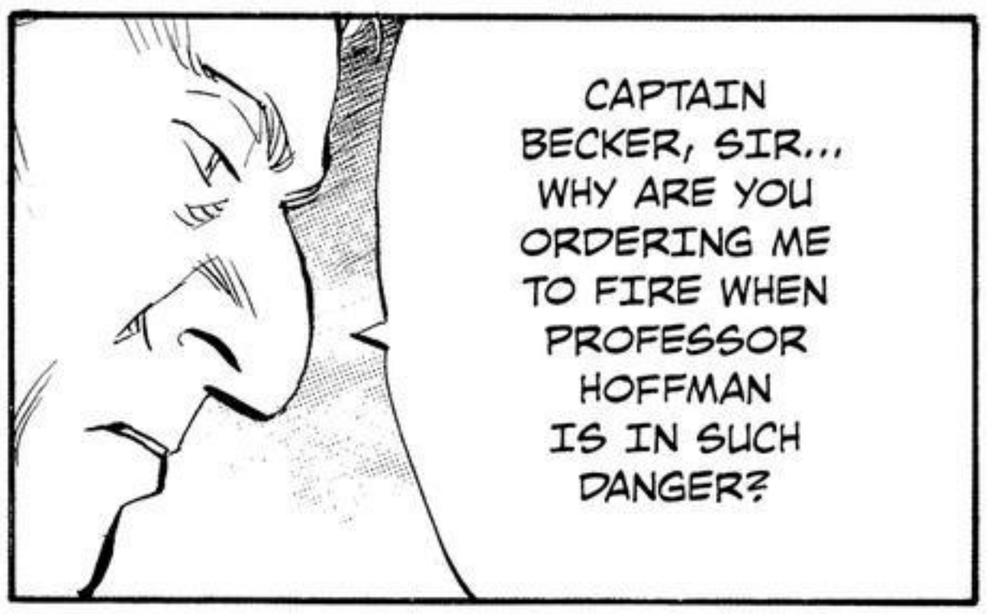
THE PROFESSOR IS SAFE, GESICHT...

YOU'RE LYING.


WHAT IS THAT ROBOT THAT HAS THE PROFESSOR?

WHAT IS THAT ROBOT?
UMM...

IT'S, UH...


CAPTAIN BECKER, SIR... WHY ARE YOU ORDERING ME TO FIRE WHEN PROFESSOR HOFFMAN IS IN SUCH DANGER?

?!
GESICHT...

...

...
LET'S SWAP PRISONERS.

WHO ARE YOU?
LET'S MAKE A DEAL.

WHO ARE YOU?

RELEASE MY BELOVED PLUTO.

GESICHT ...!!

SHUF

SHUF

YOU'LL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!!

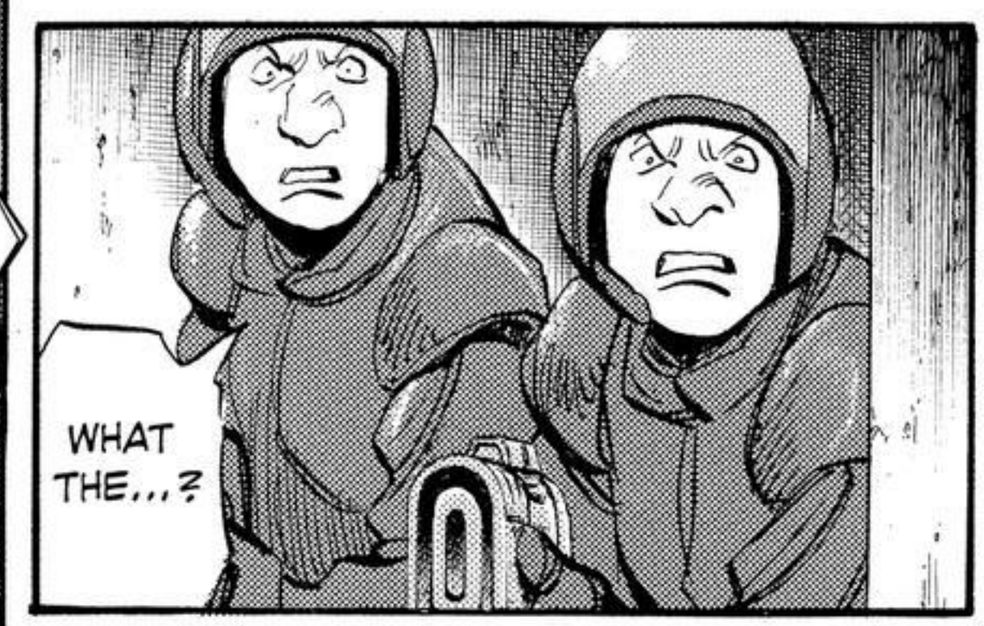
SHUF

GESICHT!! YOUR CONDUCT IS IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 1, CLAUSE 3, AND ARTICLE 15, CLAUSE 2, OF THE ROBOT LAWS!!

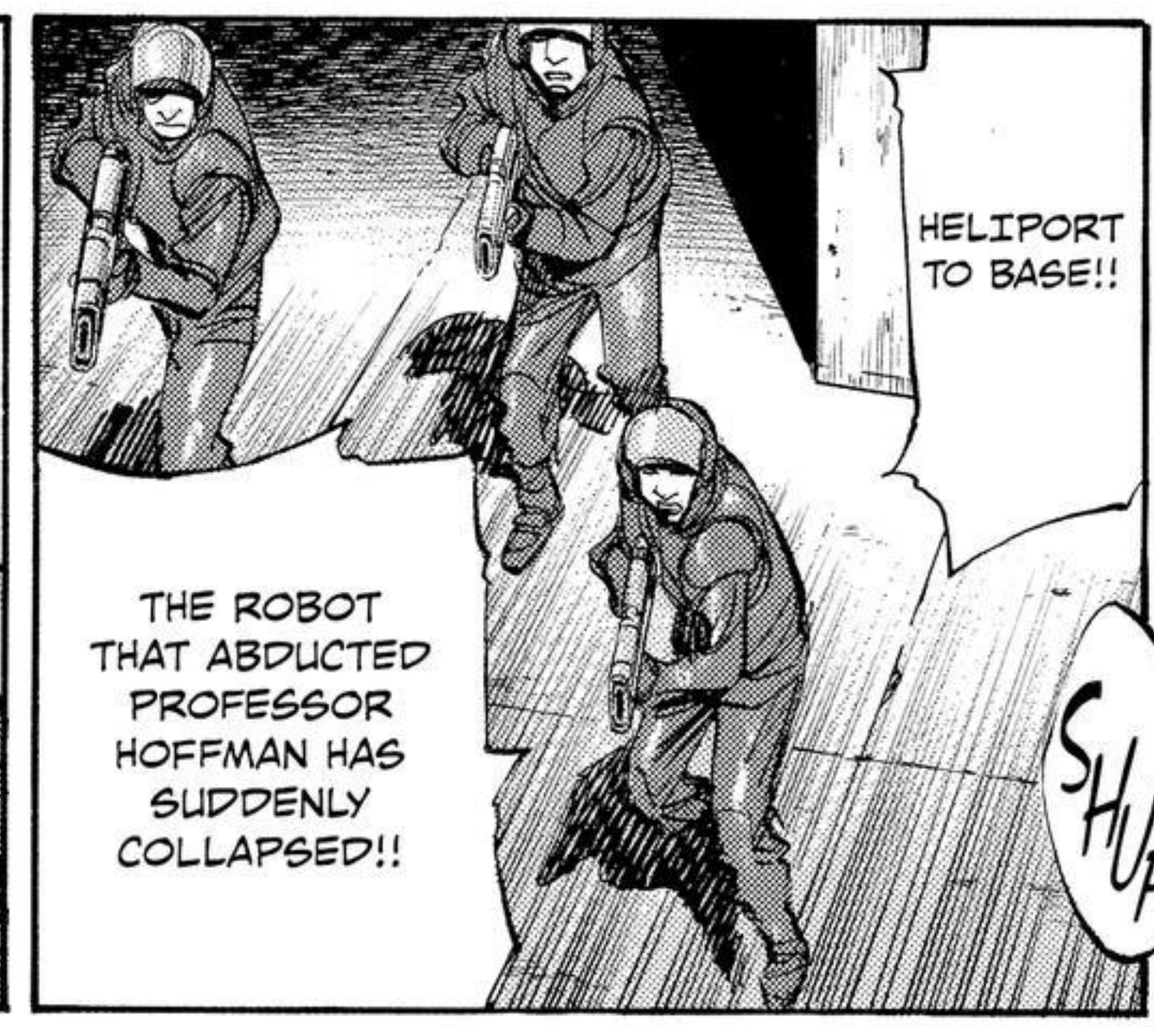
GRE...

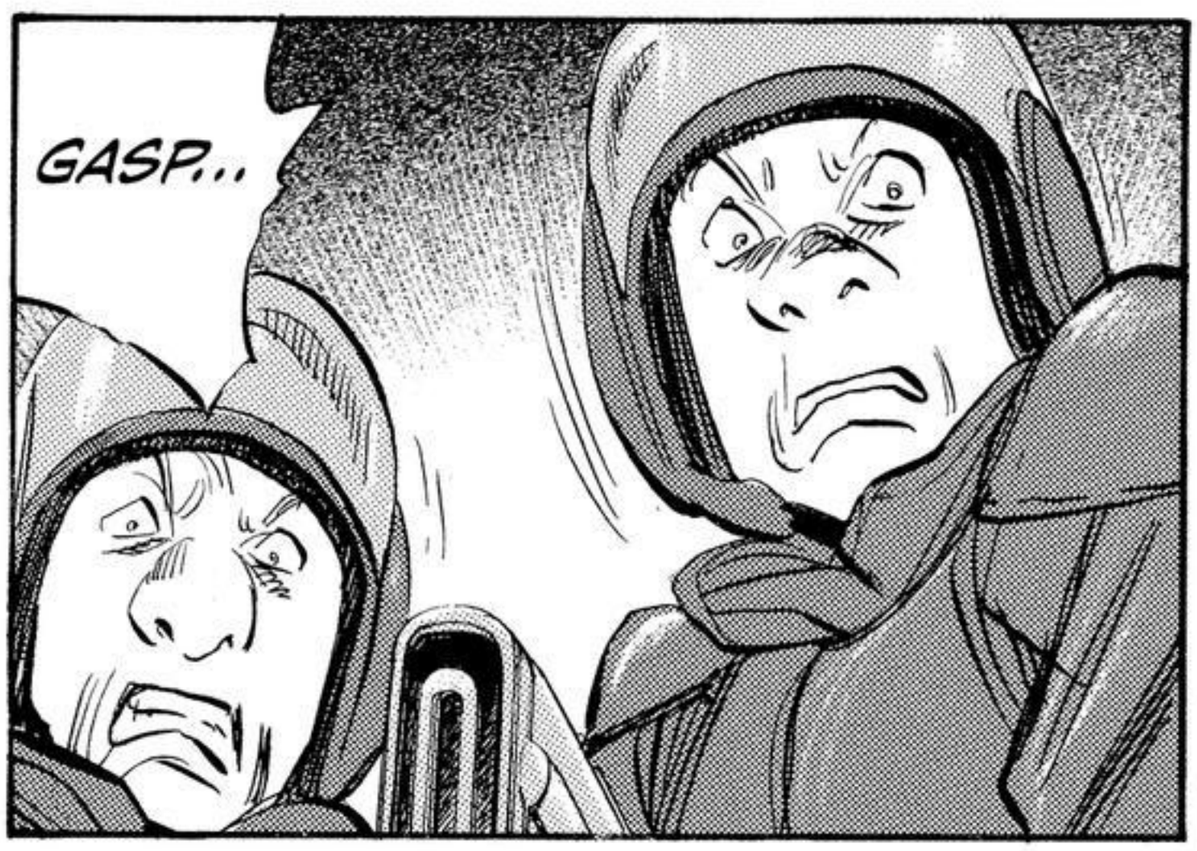
GESICHT!!

KACHONK


WHAT THE...?

PROFESSOR HOFFMAN IS *SAFE*!!


HELIPORT TO BASE!!
THE ROBOT THAT ABDUCTED PROFESSOR HOFFMAN HAS SUDDENLY COLLAPSED!!
SHUF

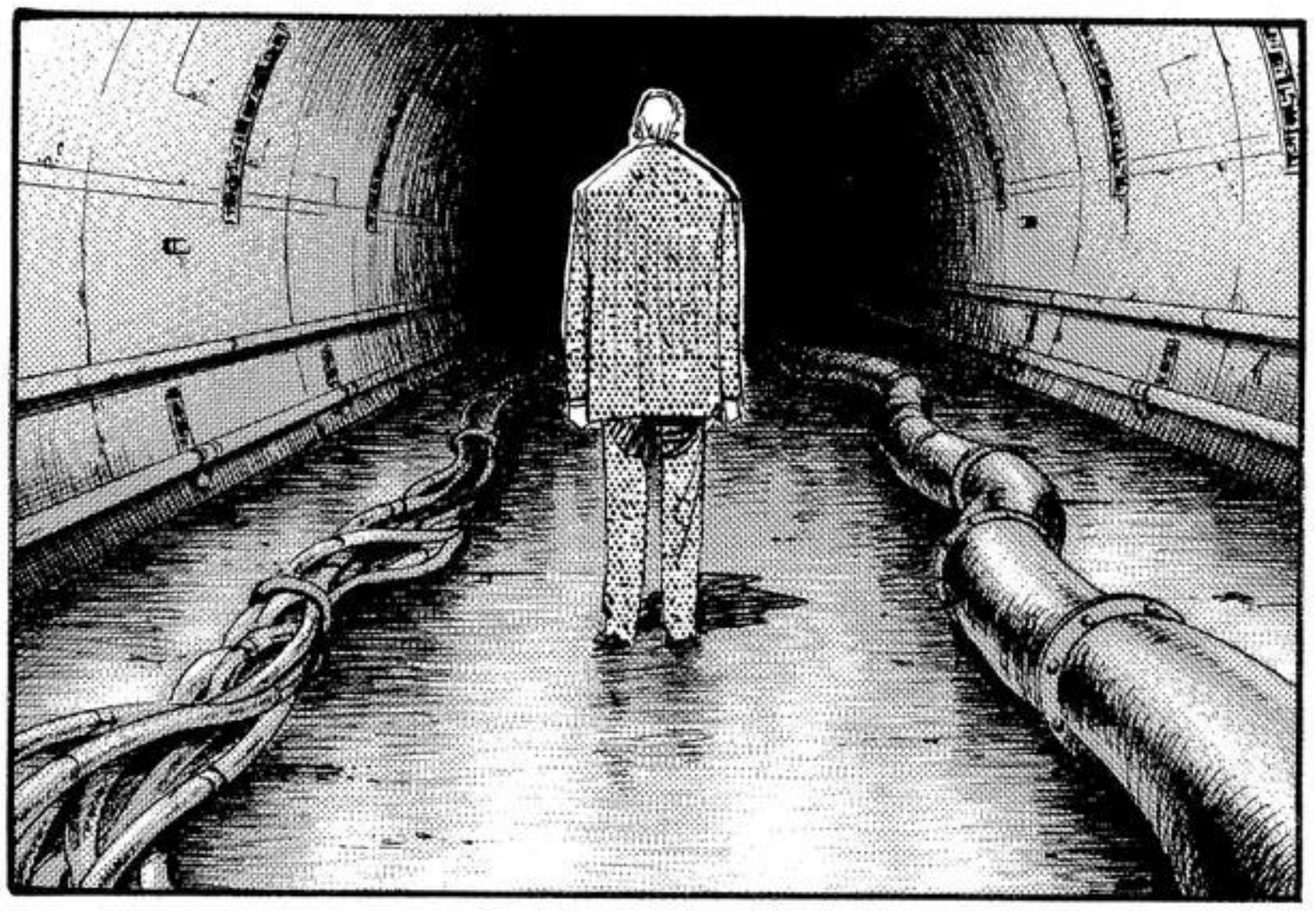

GASP...

SHUF

SCRBBL SCRBBL

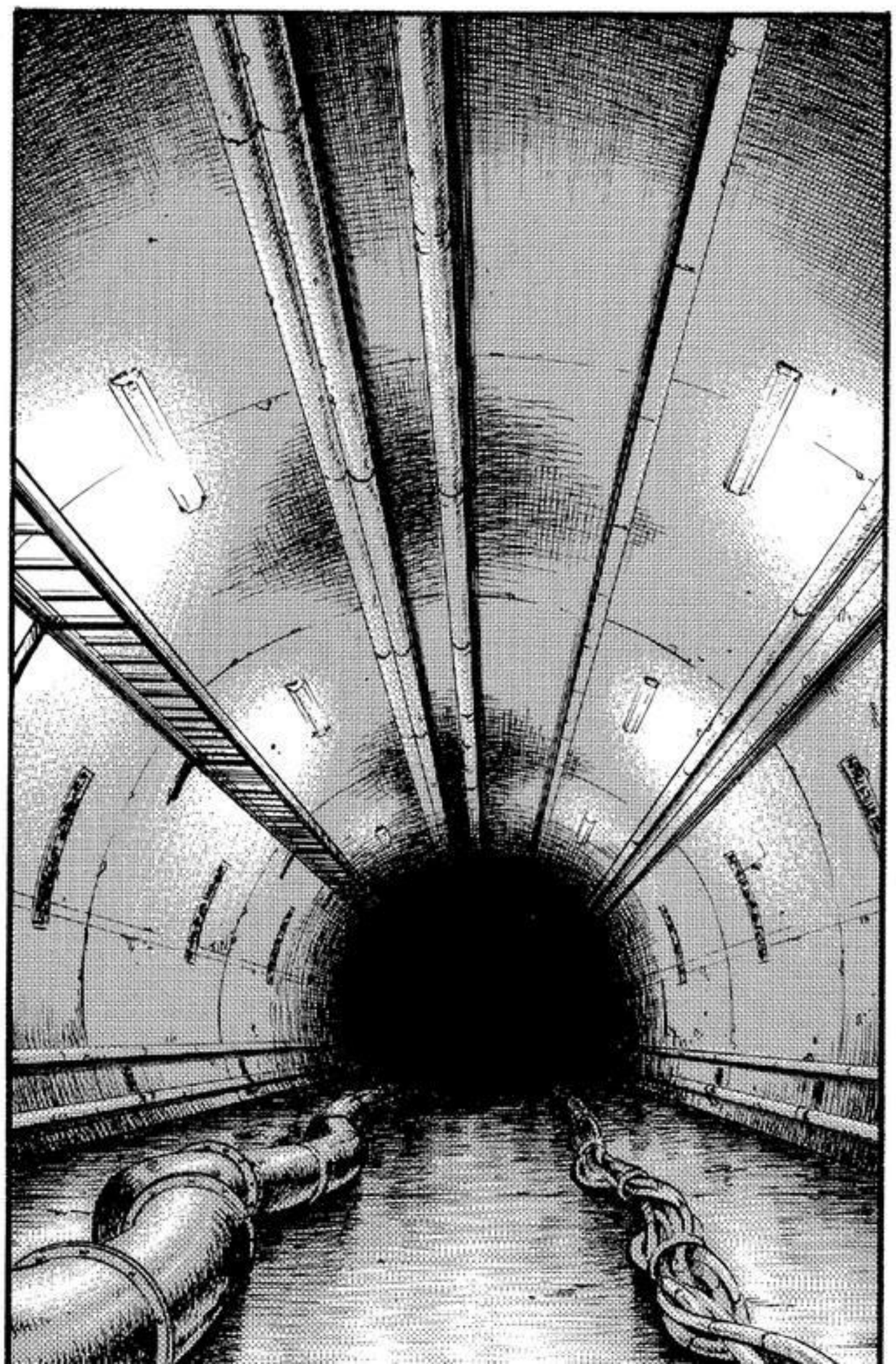
HORDES OF *COCK-ROACHES*!!!

SKTTR SKTTR SKTTR



YOUR FATHER DOES NOT LOVE YOU...

YOUR FATHER...



SAHAD...

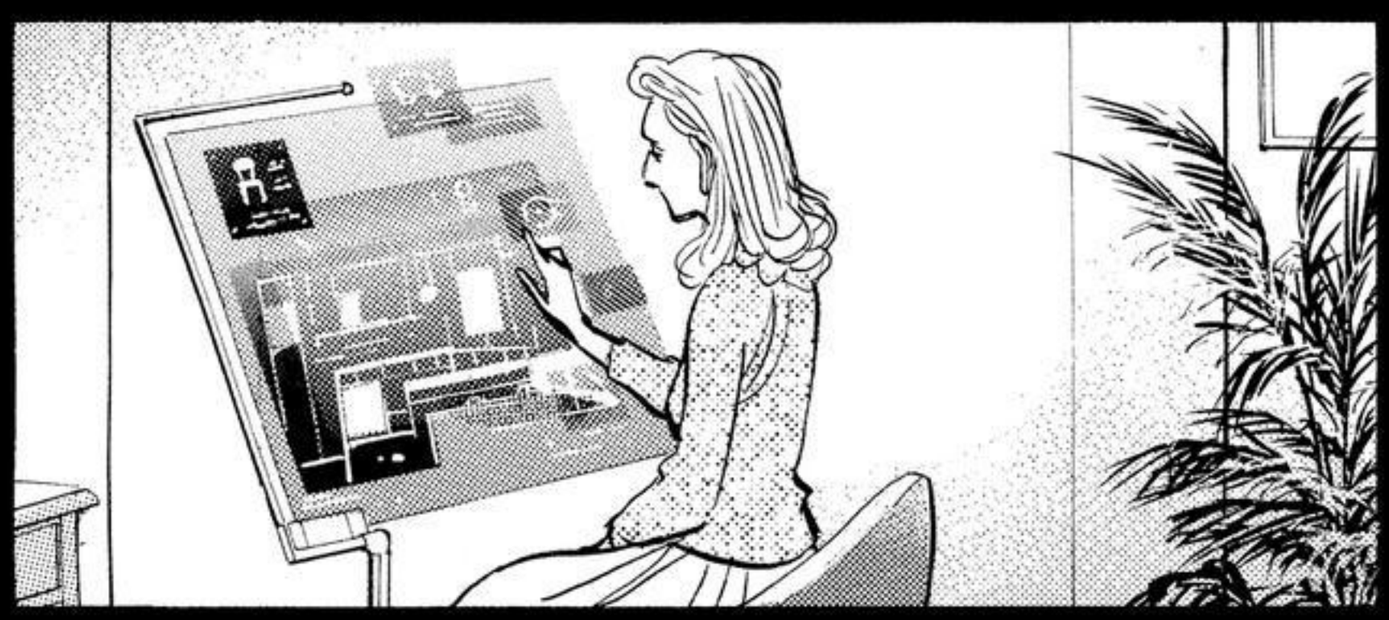
GRAH

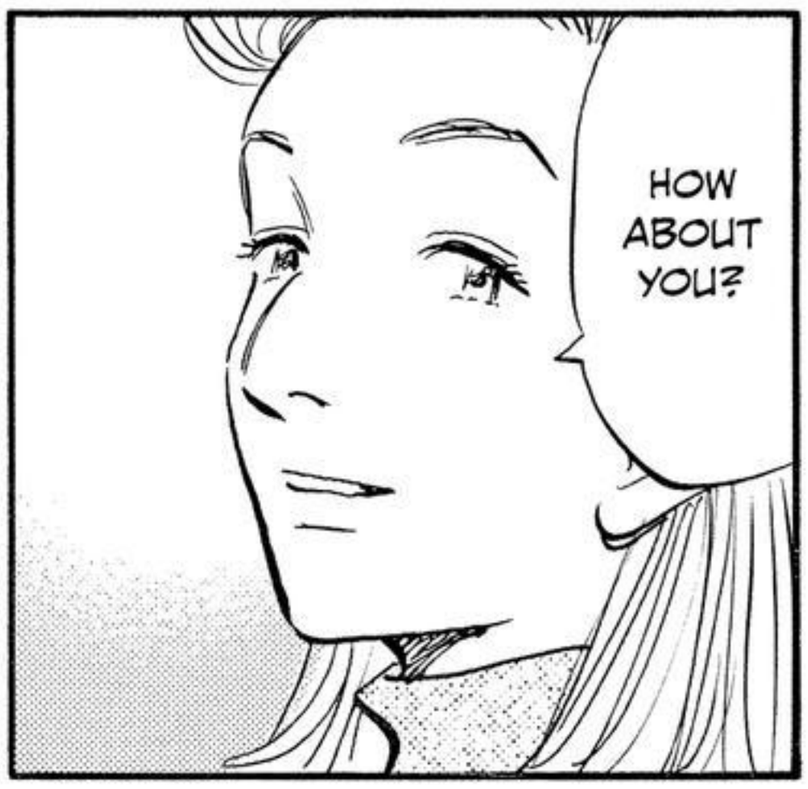
GRRRROOAR

GRHHAR

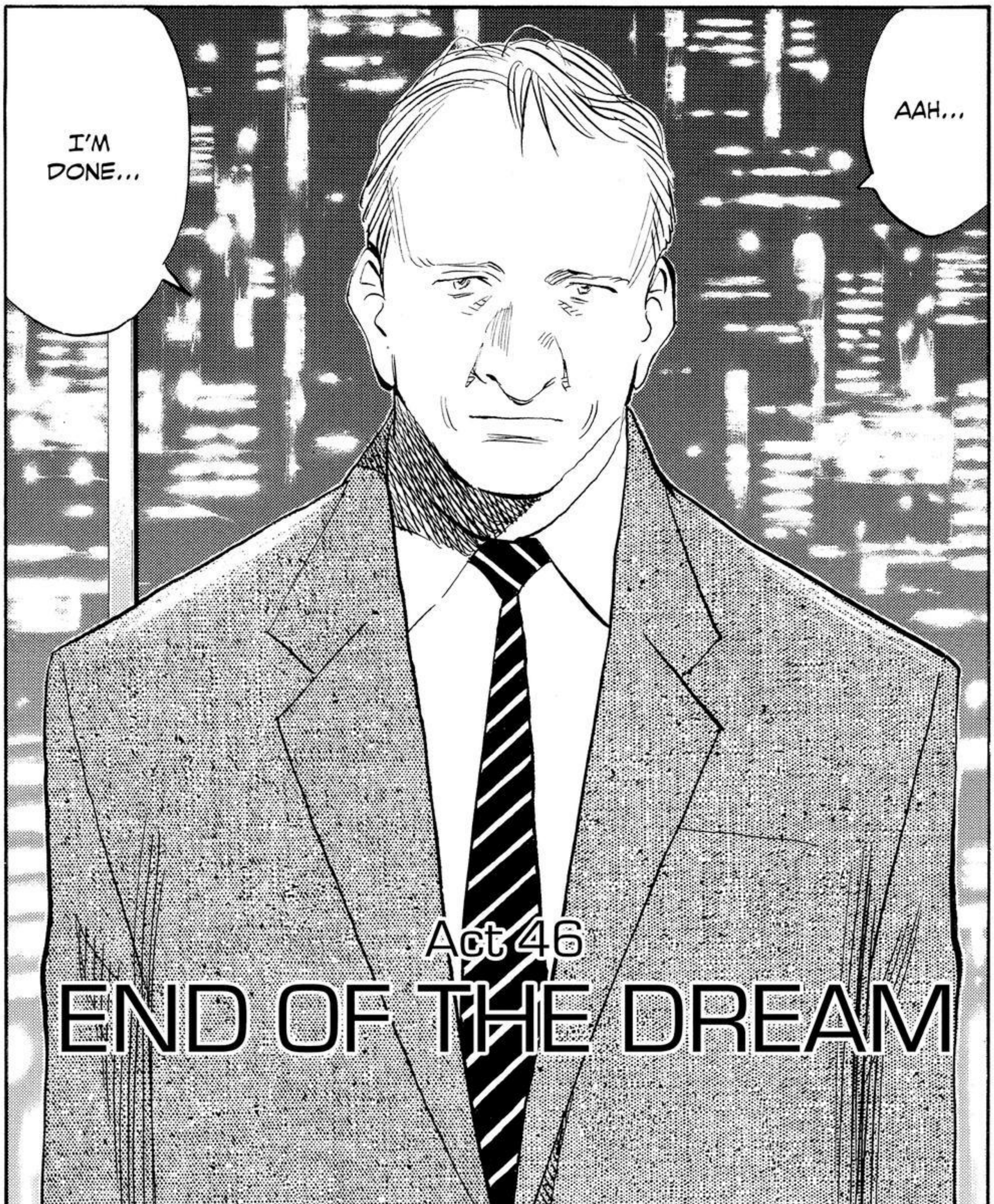
Act 46 END OF THE DREAM

DÜSSELDORF



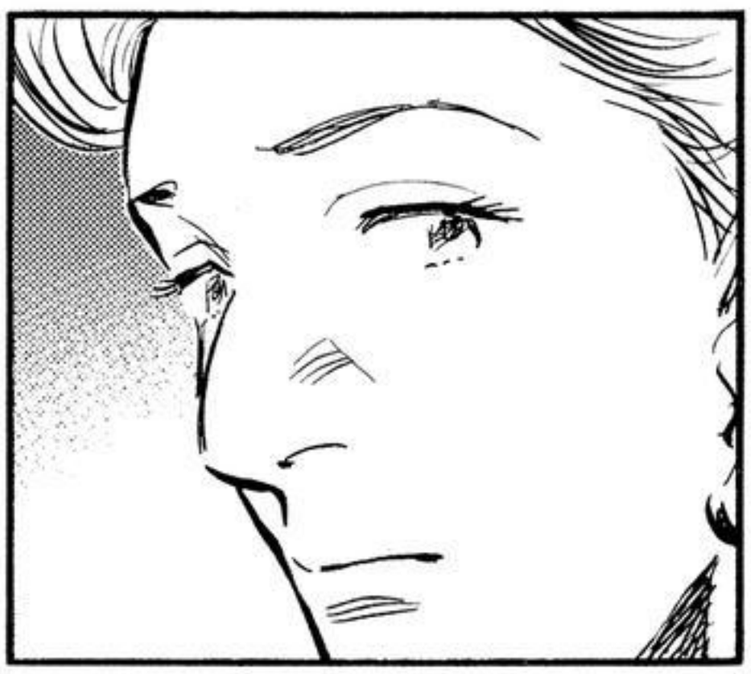

HOW ABOUT YOU?

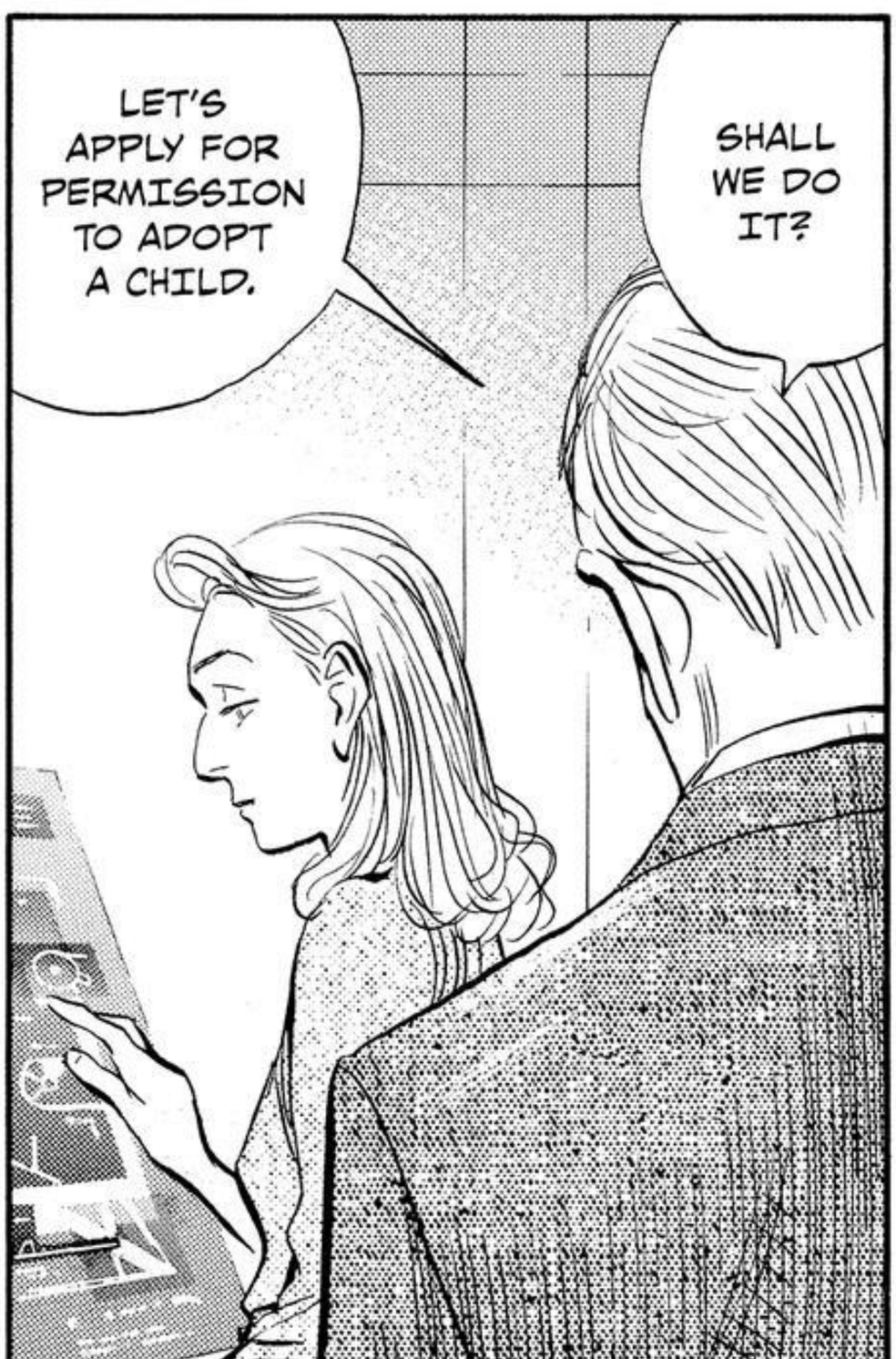
HI, HELENA... ARE YOU STILL WORKING?
YES, BUT I'M ABOUT READY FOR A BREAK.

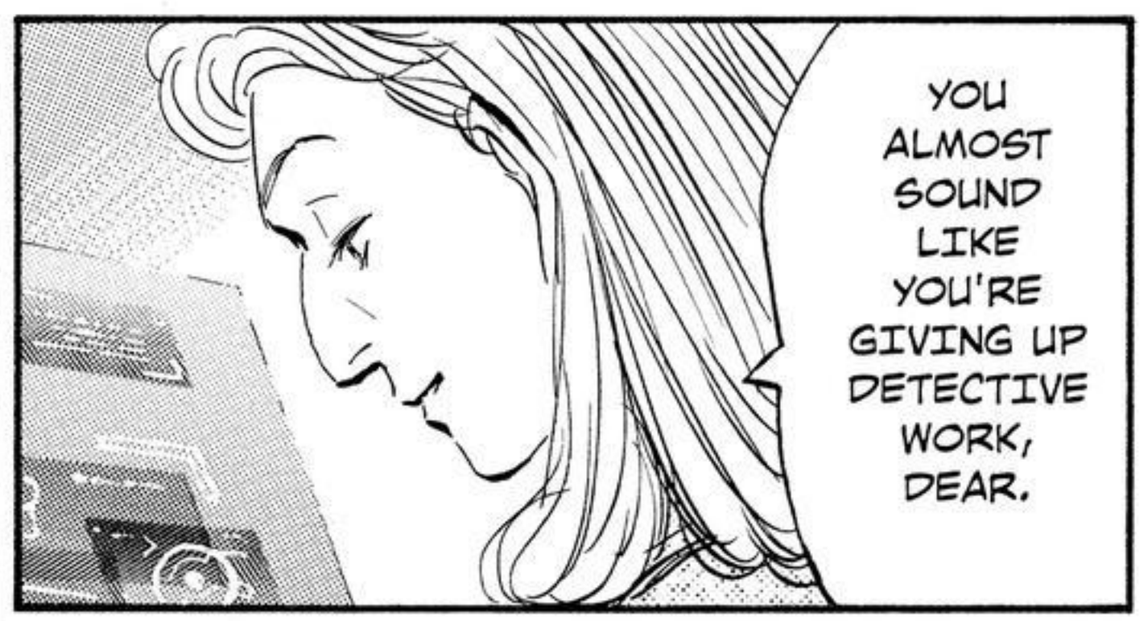

AAH...
I'M DONE...
Act 46
END OF THE DREAM

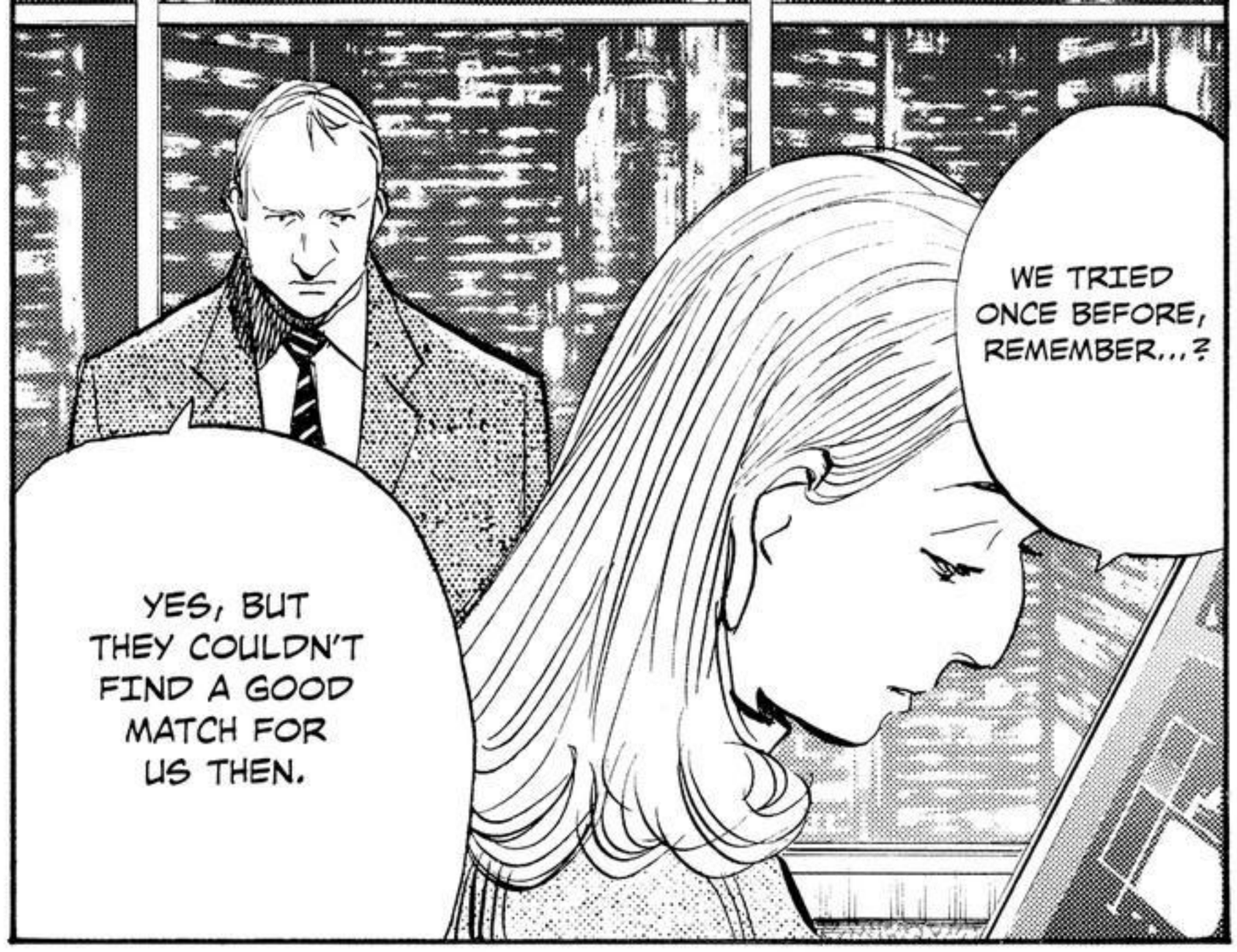
YOU SAY THAT NOW, BUT I KNOW YOU'LL JUST RUN OFF TO YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT, RIGHT?

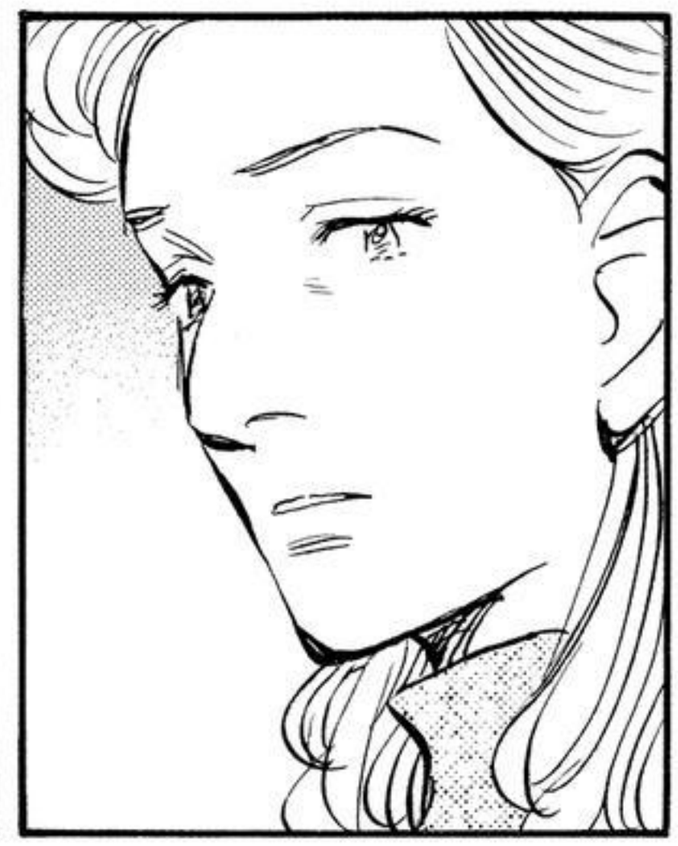
NO, I WON'T.





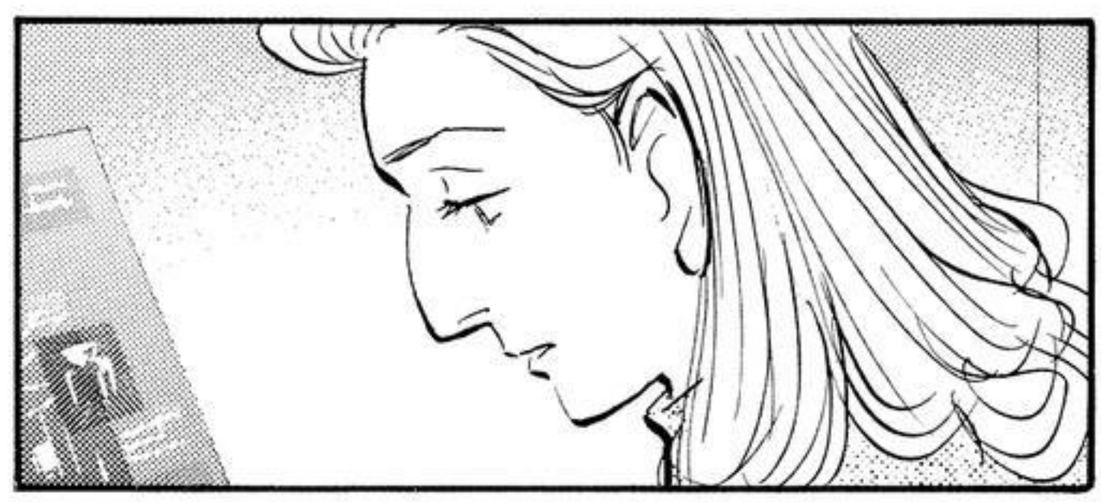


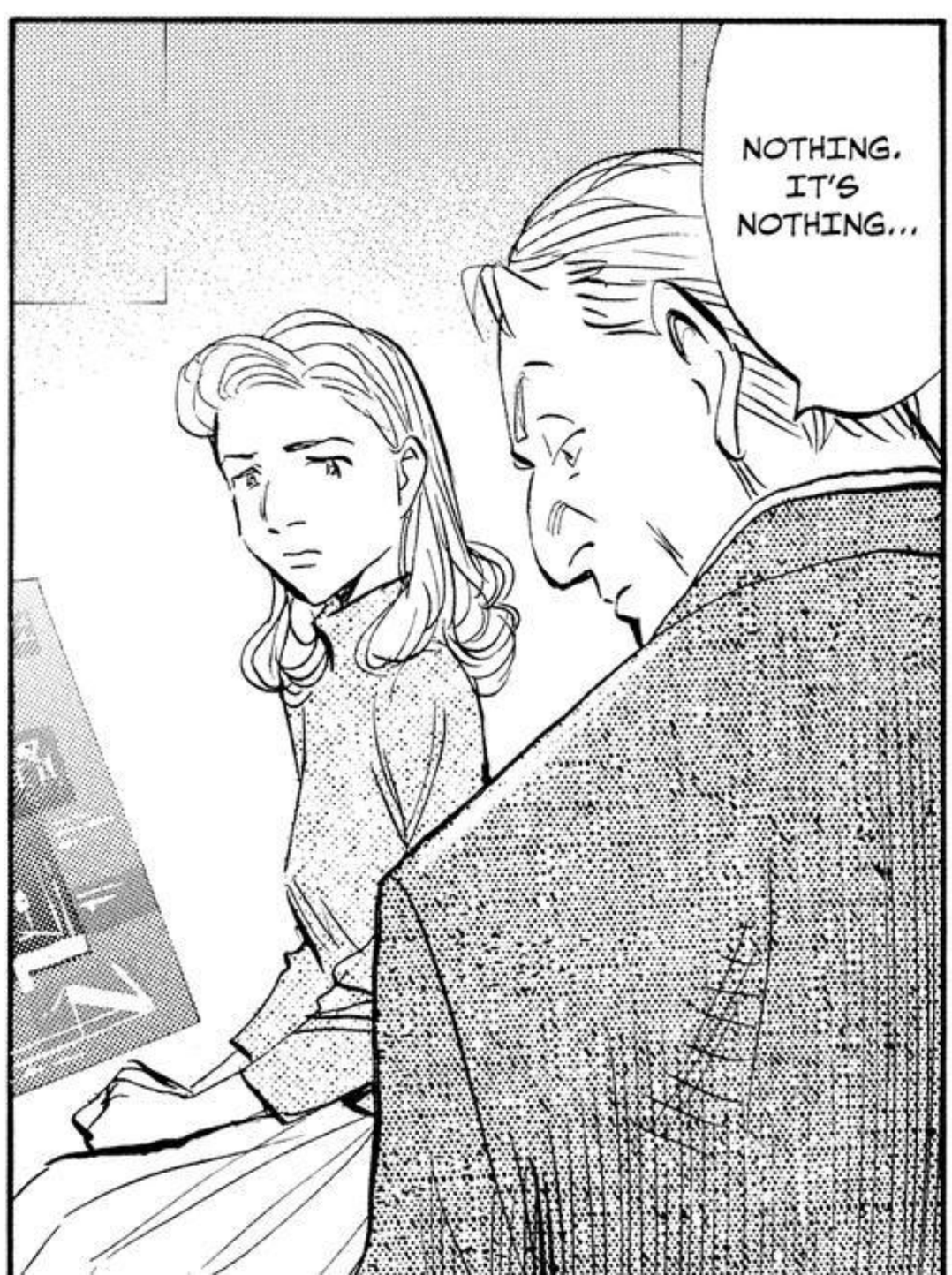

WE TRIED ONCE BEFORE, REMEMBER...?
YES, BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND A GOOD MATCH FOR US THEN.



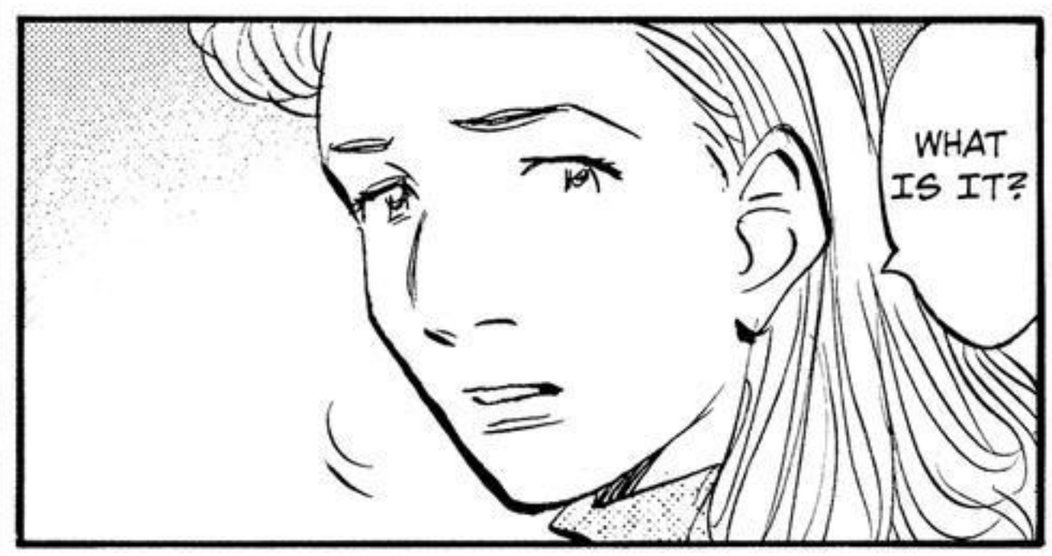
I DON'T KNOW IF I'D BE A GOOD MOTHER, DEAR...

THERE'VE BEEN LOTS OF ADVANCES IN ROBOTICS, AND THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN RELAXED...
THIS TIME WILL BE DIFFERENT.




NOTHING. IT'S NOTHING...

I KNOW YOU WOULD.
OF COURSE YOU WOULD.


WHAT IS IT?

AFTER ALL, I HAVE *YOU*, DEAR.

IF WE HAD CHILDREN YOU WOULDN'T BE SO LONELY.

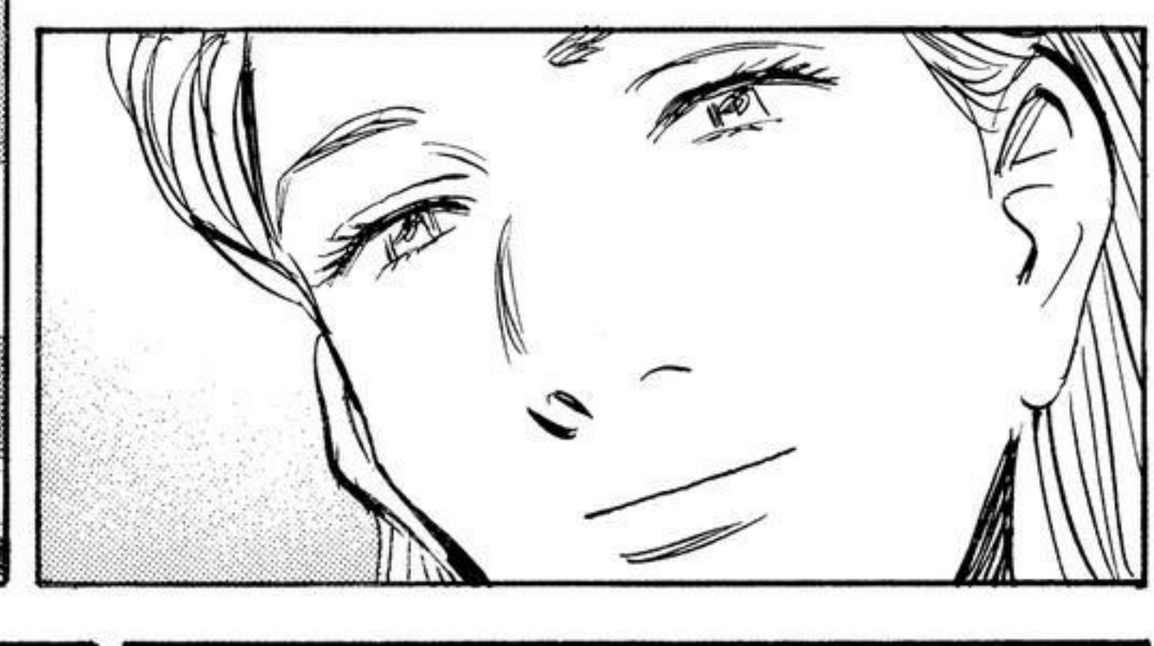
AND BESIDES ...

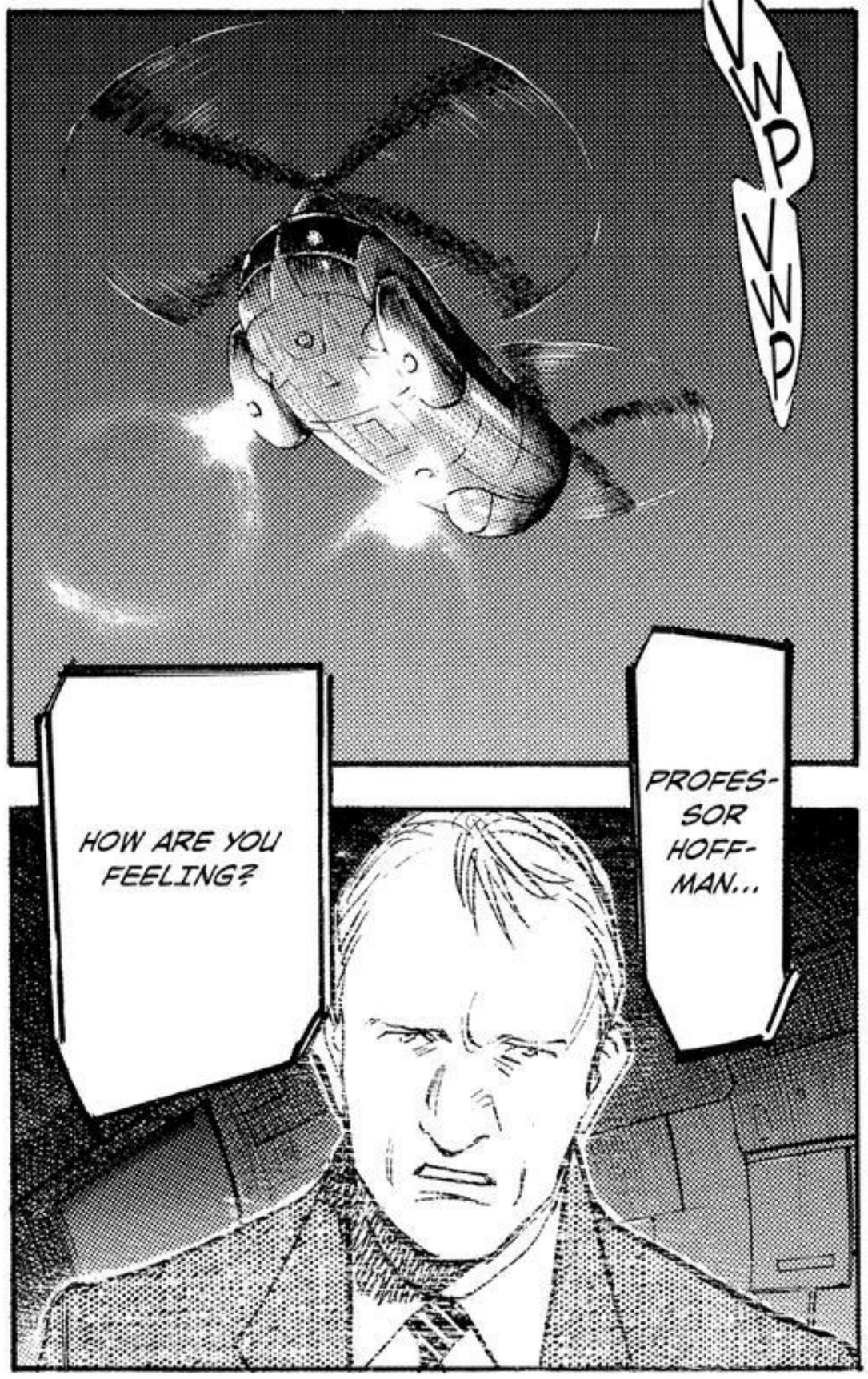
WHO'S LONELY? NOT ME...

OKAY. JUST MAKE IT SOON, OKAY?

LET'S TALK MORE ABOUT THIS WHEN I GET HOME...

I WILL...




VWPVWP
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
PROFES-SOR HOFF-MAN...

I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

I'M BEING FLOWN TO THE HOSPITAL RIGHT NOW. YOU NEEDN'T WORRY.
HELLO, GESICHT... I'M FINE.

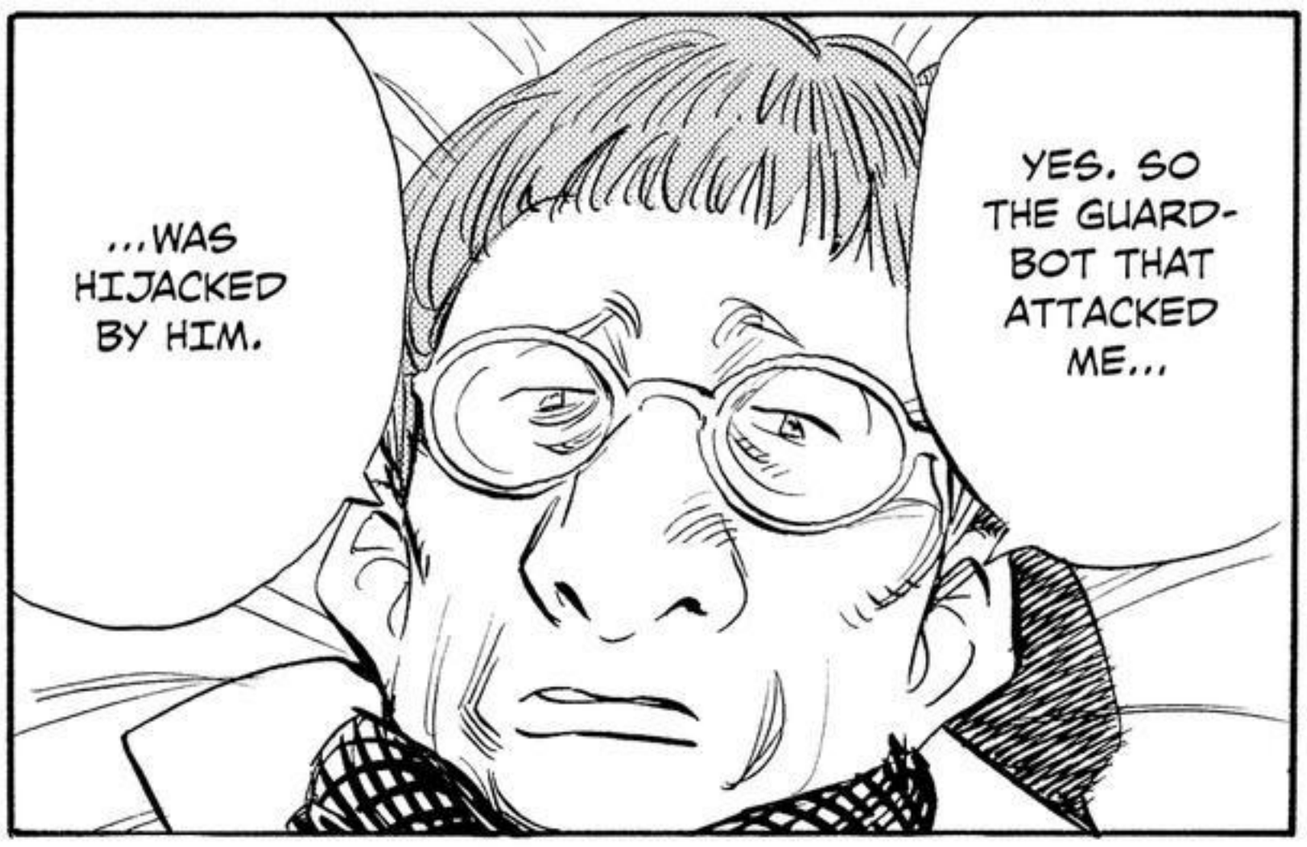
I'M NOT DAMAGED.

YES, I SHOULD HAVE HIM SOON. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

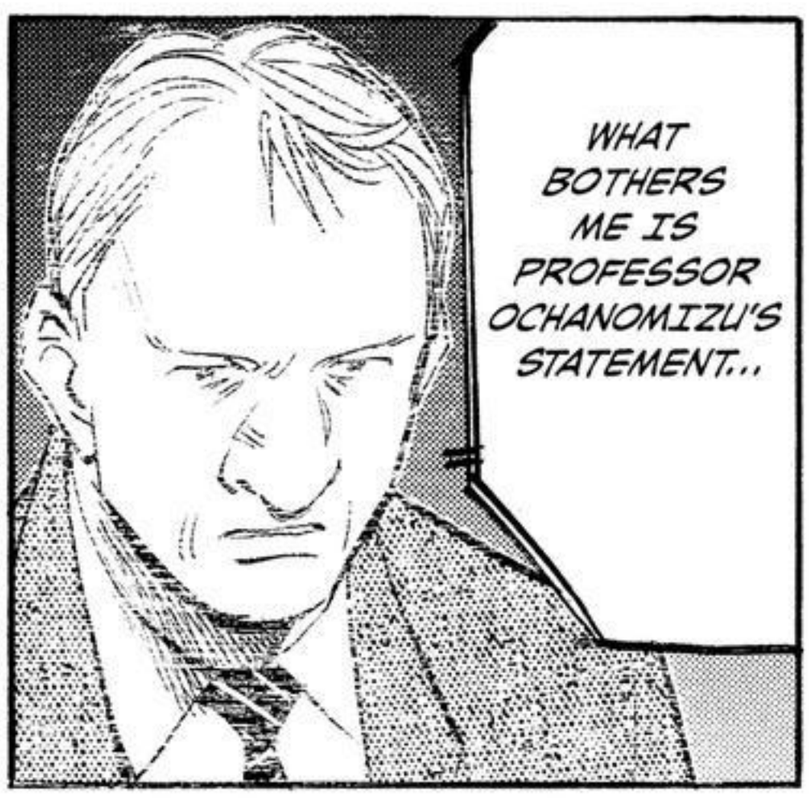
WHAT ABOUT THE MONSTER ...?
I HEARD YOU CORNERED IT...

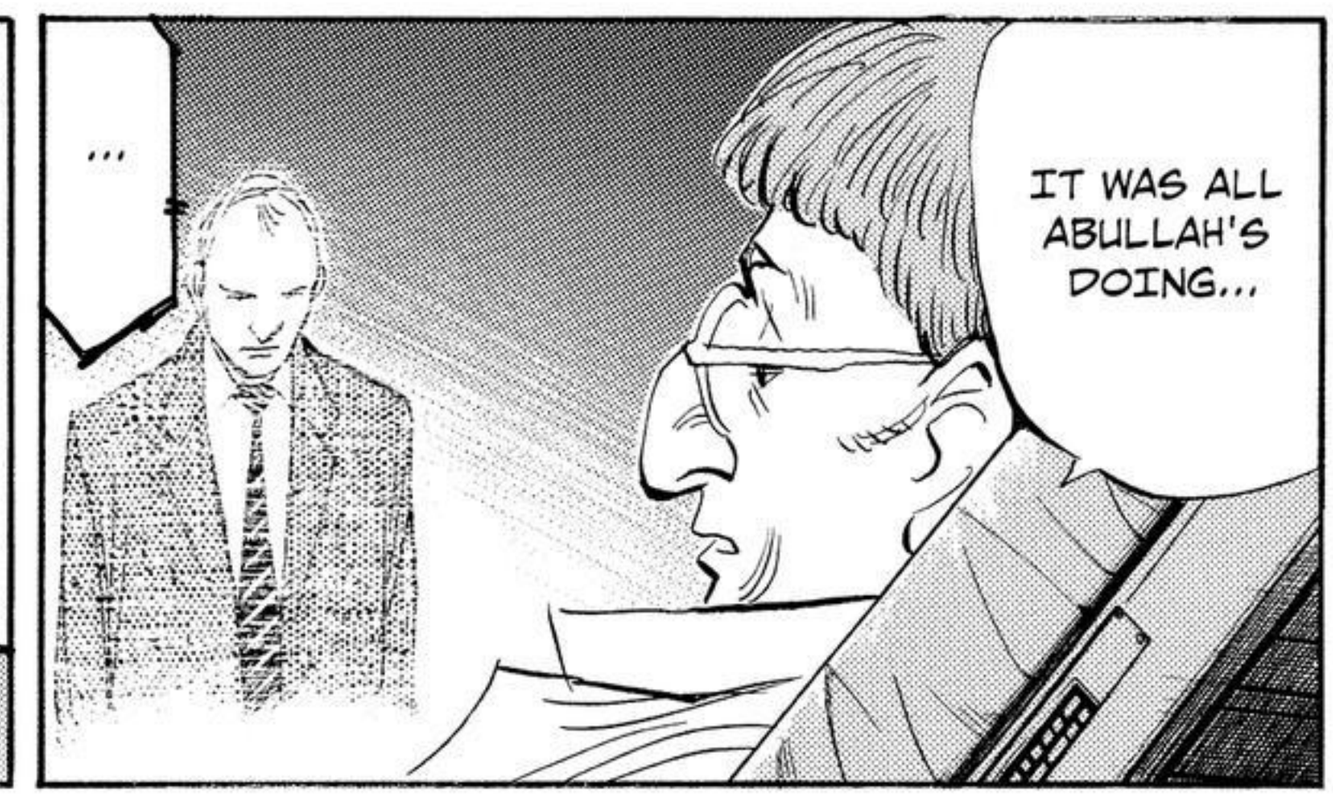
YOU NEEDN'T FACE HIM AGAIN YOURSELF, GESICHT. YOU'RE NOT IN PERFECT CONDITION.

IT WAS JUST LIKE YOU SAID...
WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS.
YES...


...WAS HIJACKED BY HIM.
YES. SO THE GUARD-BOT THAT ATTACKED ME...

ABULLAH.


WHAT BOTHERS ME IS PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU'S STATEMENT...


...
IT WAS ALL ABULLAH'S DOING...

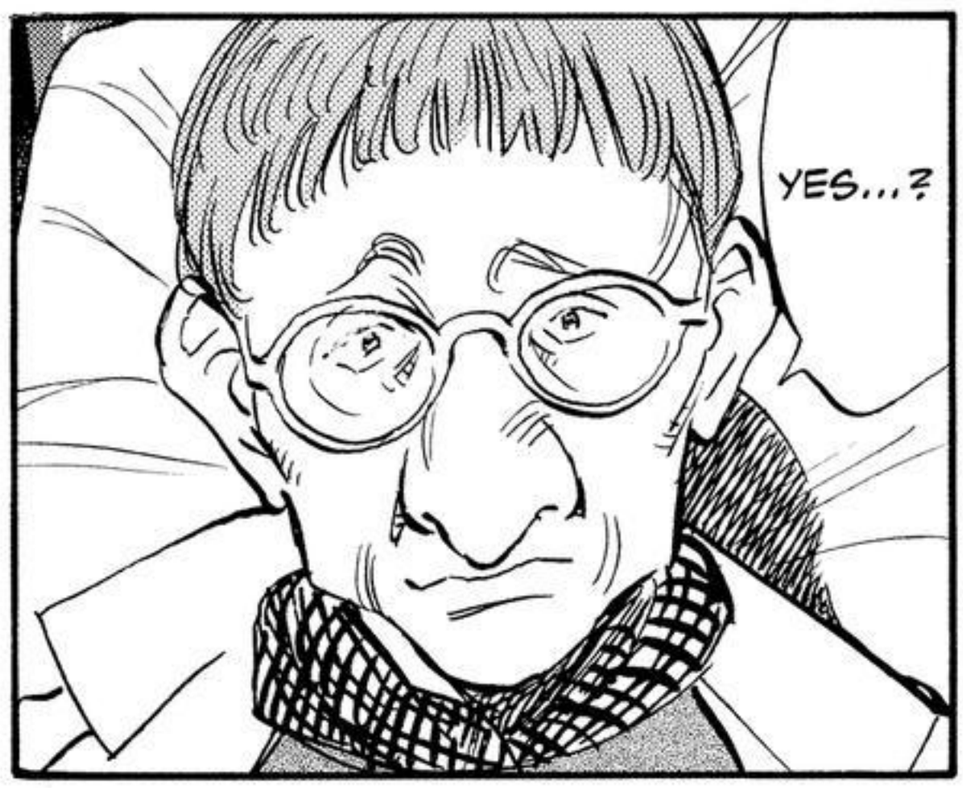
YES-SIR...
WELL, LET THE OTHERS HANDLE EVERYTHING. YOU NEED TO REST, OKAY?

HE SAID THAT GOJI IS BEHIND ALL THIS.

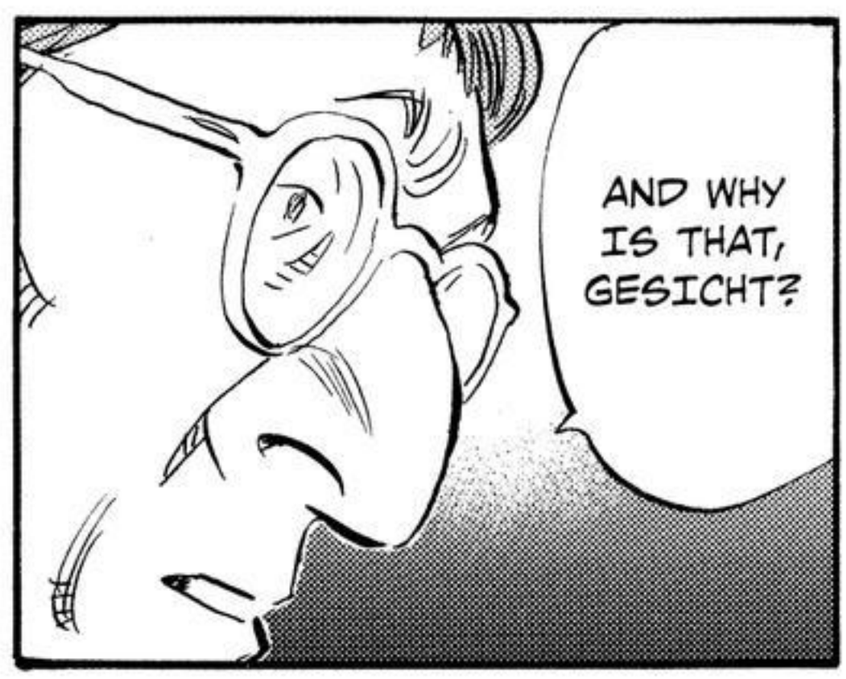
...AND ABULLAH...
GOJI...

PROFESSOR ...
YES?

I DON'T WANT TO BE A NAG, BUT THAT CLUSTER CANNON TOOK A TOLL ON YOUR BODY ALLOY.
ONE MORE SHOCK LIKE THAT TO YOUR SYSTEM AND...


YES...?

YOU KNOW THAT DREAM THAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT...


AND WHY IS THAT, GESICHT?

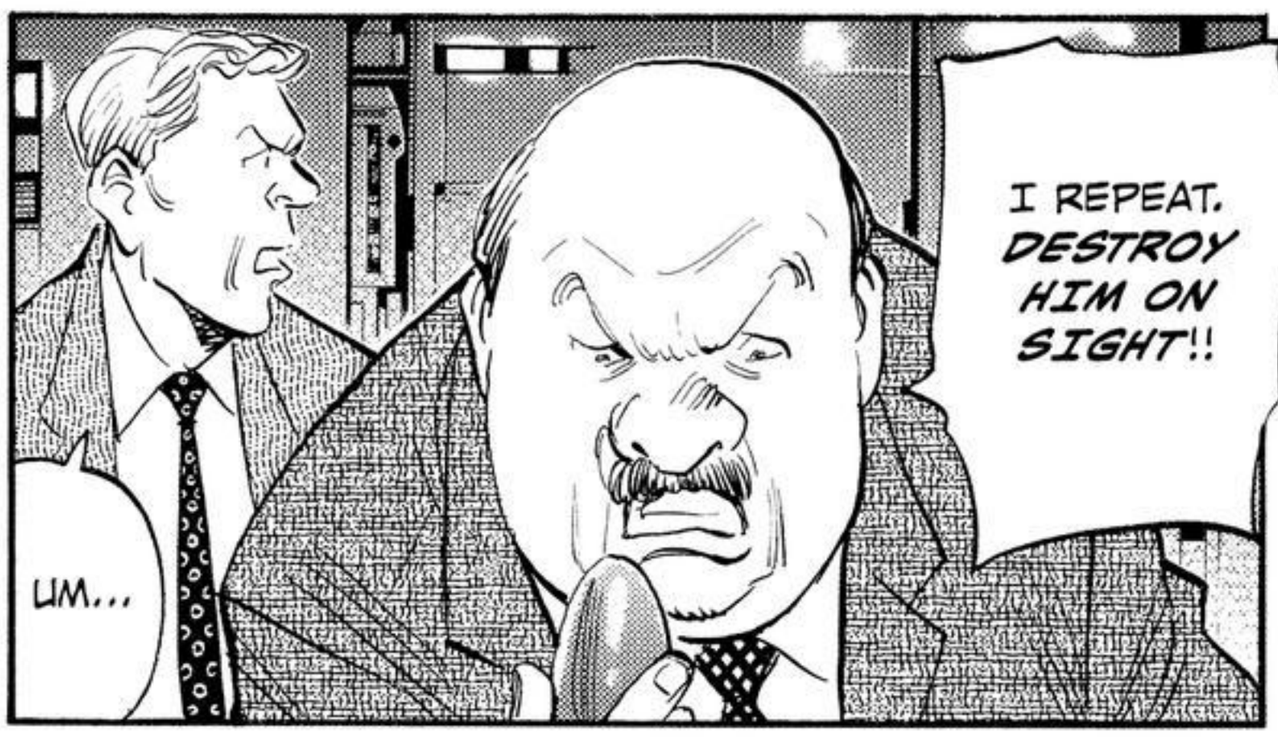
...

I MAY NOT BE SEEING IT ANYMORE...

I JUST HAVE A FEELING ...
I'M NOT SURE...

I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT THE DREAM IS ABOUT...

SQUAD D HAS ARRIVED! WE ARE HEADING UNDER-GROUND.


UM...
I REPEAT. DESTROY HIM ON SIGHT!!

DIRECTOR ...
WHERE'S GESICHT?
KLAK
KLAK

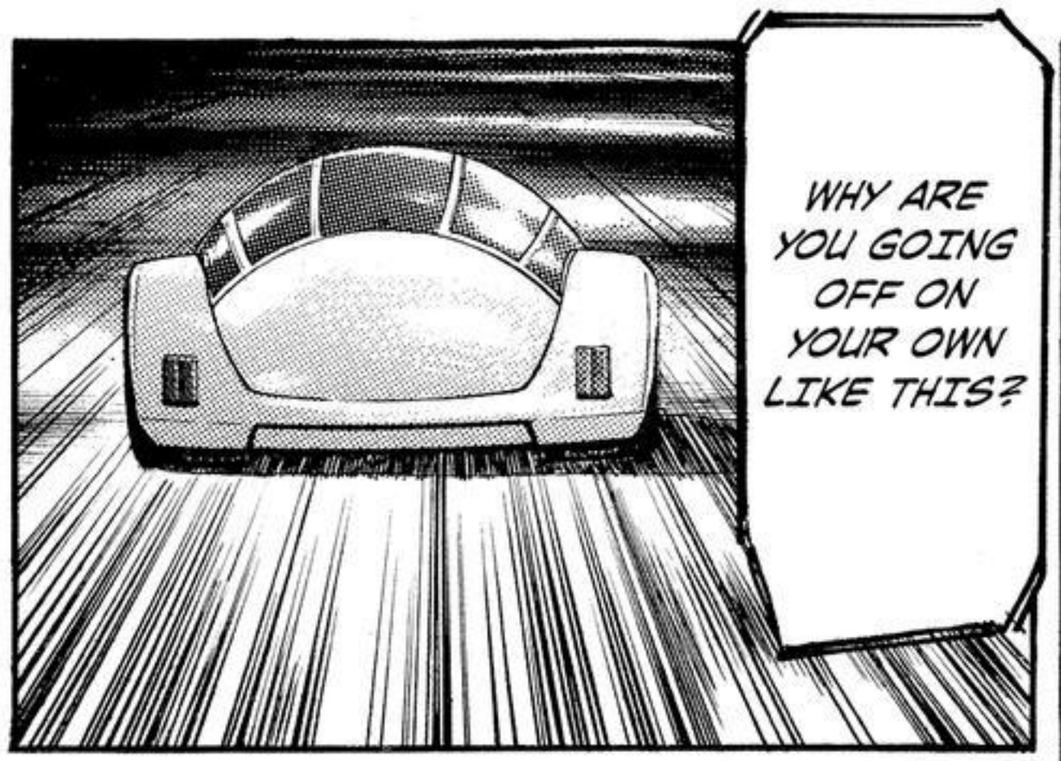
DESTROY HIM ON SIGHT!!
TARGET HAS LOST MOST OF ITS COMBAT CAPABILITY, BUT STAY ALERT, MEN!!
SHUF
SHUF

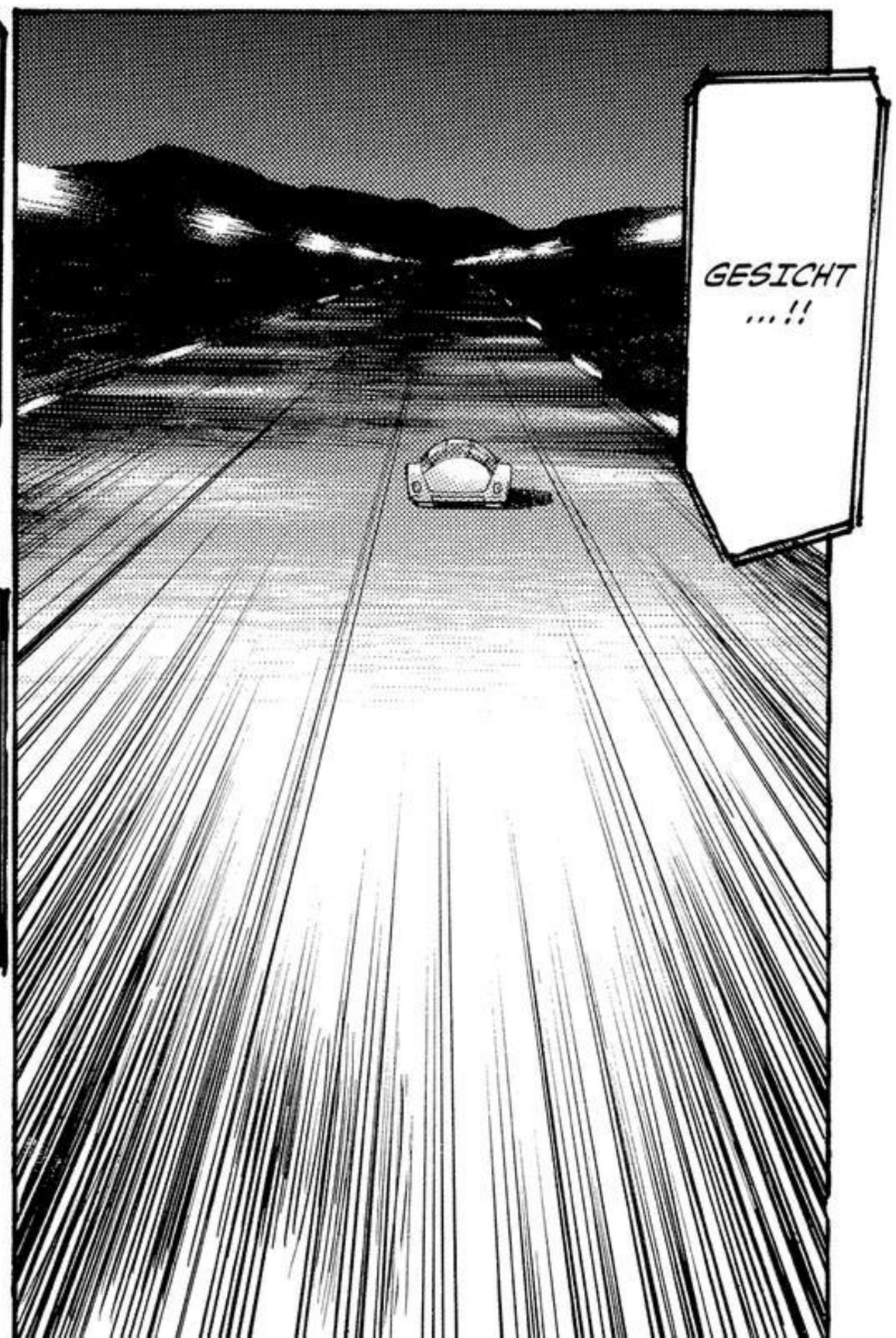
I HEARD THE REPORTS...
I WANT YOU TO CONTACT HIM...

HE'S ON HIS WAY TO AMSTERDAM, SIR...

CONTACT HIM *NOW*!

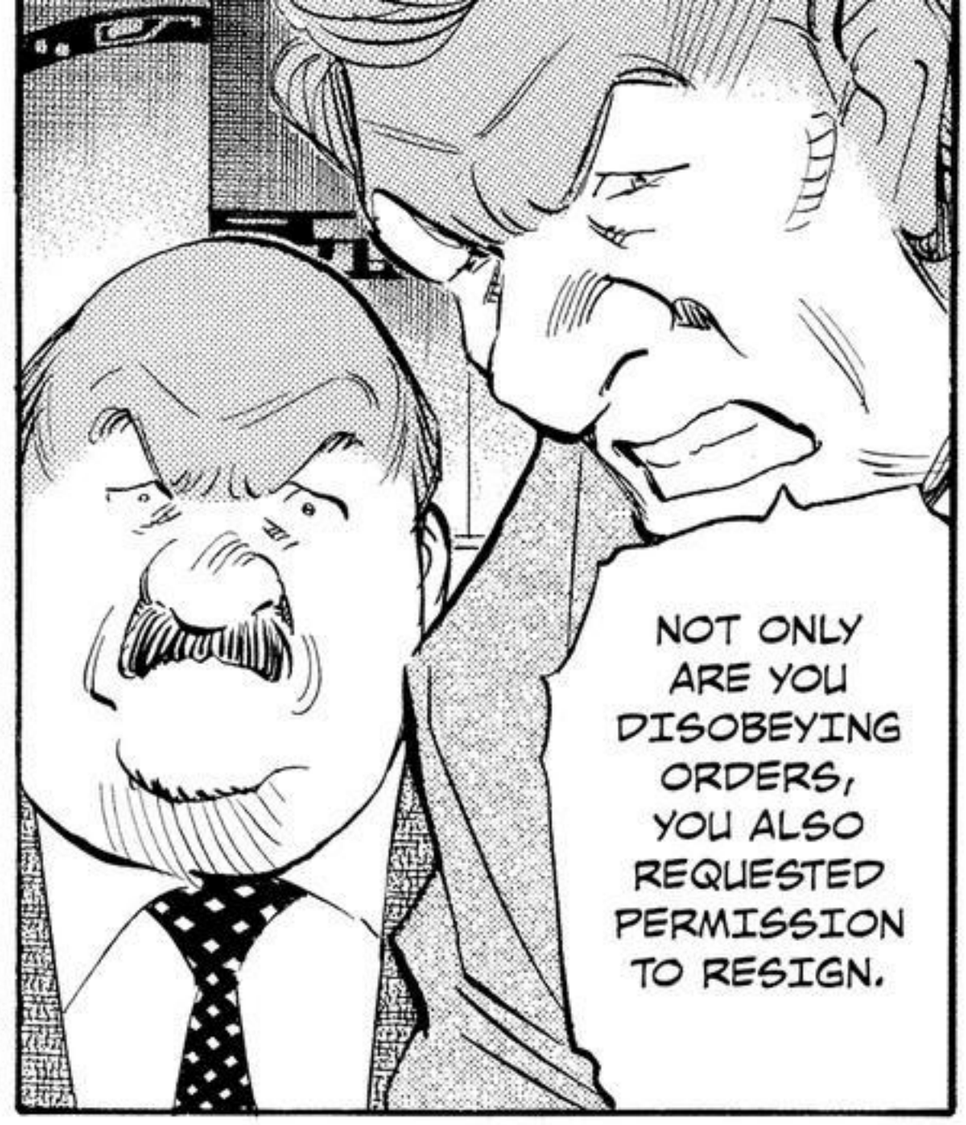
UH... YESSIR. AS SOON AS THE ACTION AT ZAANDAM IS COMPLETED, SIR.


WHY ARE YOU GOING OFF ON YOUR OWN LIKE THIS?


GESICHT ...!!

GESICHT!!
I GOT THE WHOLE STORY FROM BECKER...

AND IF YOU CAN'T RESIGN, YOU WANT AN EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.


NOT ONLY ARE YOU DISOBEYING ORDERS, YOU ALSO REQUESTED PERMISSION TO RESIGN.

DO YOU HEAR ME, GESICHT?

YOUR AI IS MALFUNC-TIONING...
I CAN'T ALLOW EITHER, GESICHT.

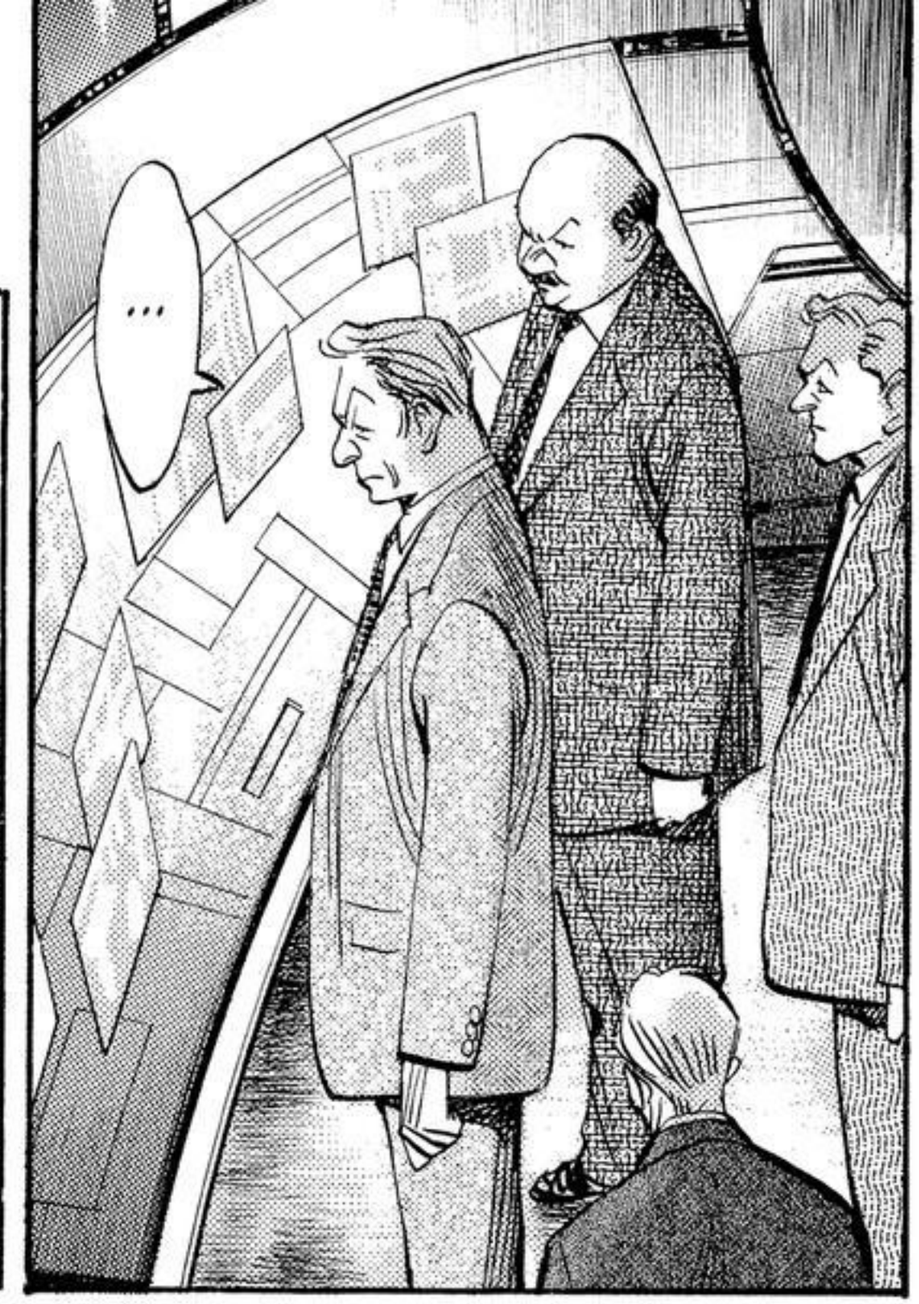
AND THEN YOU ARE TO REPORT IN FOR AN INQUIRY!
YOU NEED TO UNDERGO MAINTENANCE IMMEDIATELY...

WHY DIDN'T YOU PUT ME ON TRIAL?

THERE IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO FIRST, CHIEF...

WHAT?!

I WANT TO CONFESS MY *SINS*...


...

GESICHT...

...

I DESERVED TO BE EXECUTED FOR THE CRIME I COMMITTED!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TRY ME *THEN*?

...

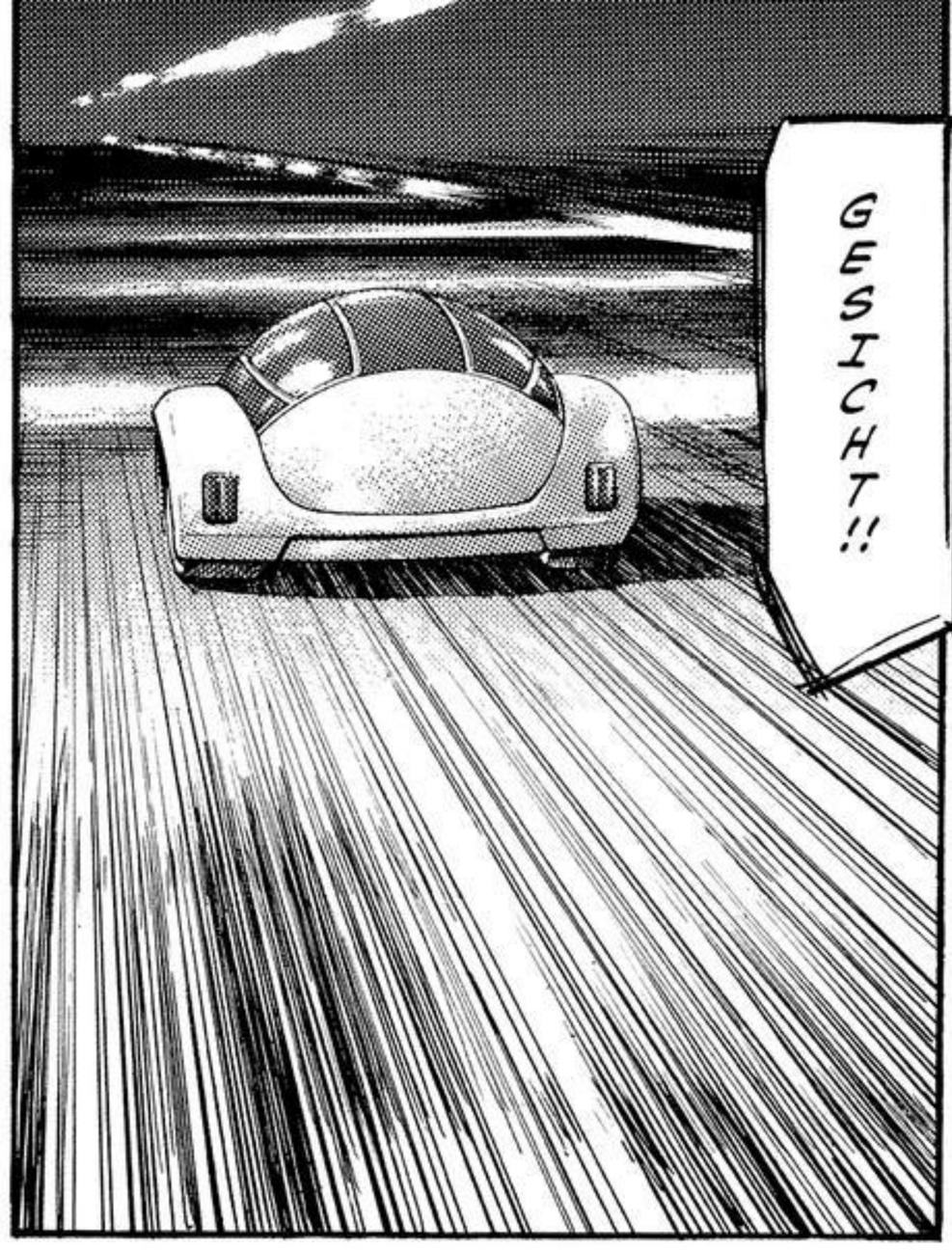
WHY...

WHY DID YOU ERASE MY MEMORY?!!

YOU EVEN ERASED THE MEMORY OF THAT CHILD...

LISTEN, GESICHT...

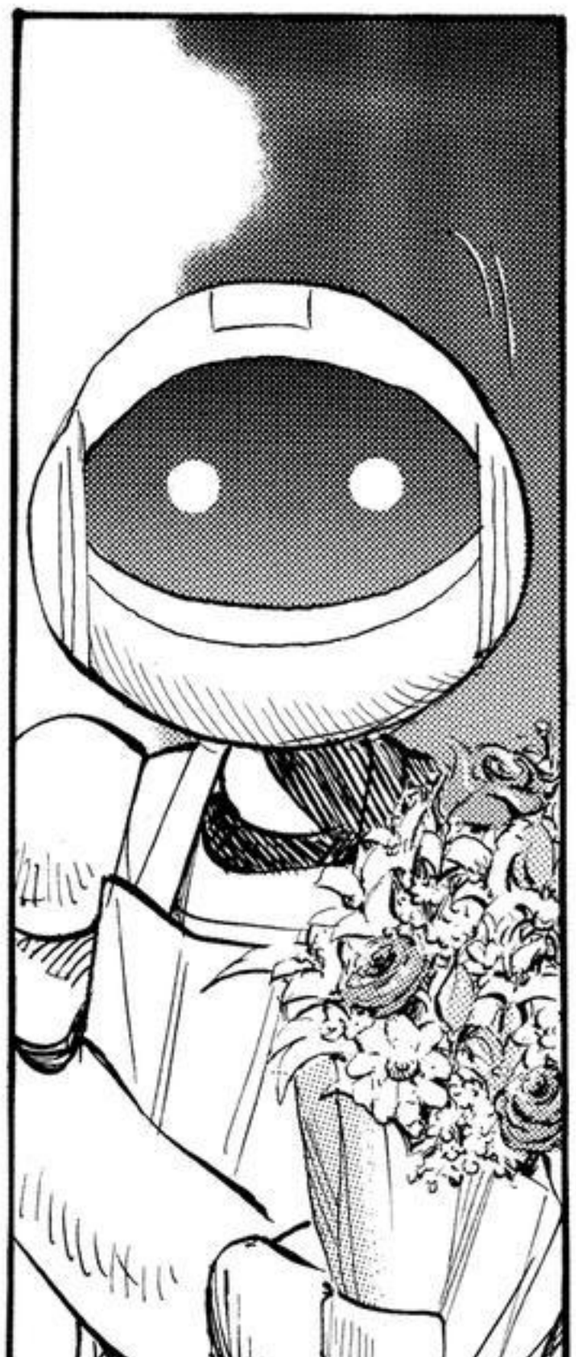
SO PRECIOUS...


GESICHT!!

WELL... THAT WAS...
...!!

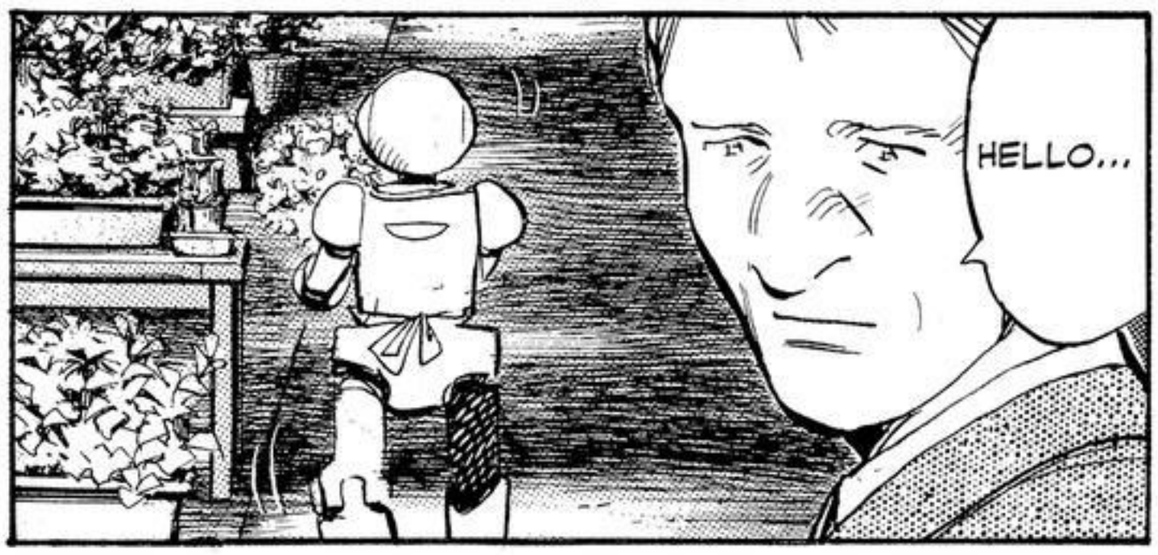
GESICHT, DO NOT CUT OFF THIS COMMUNI-CATION!!

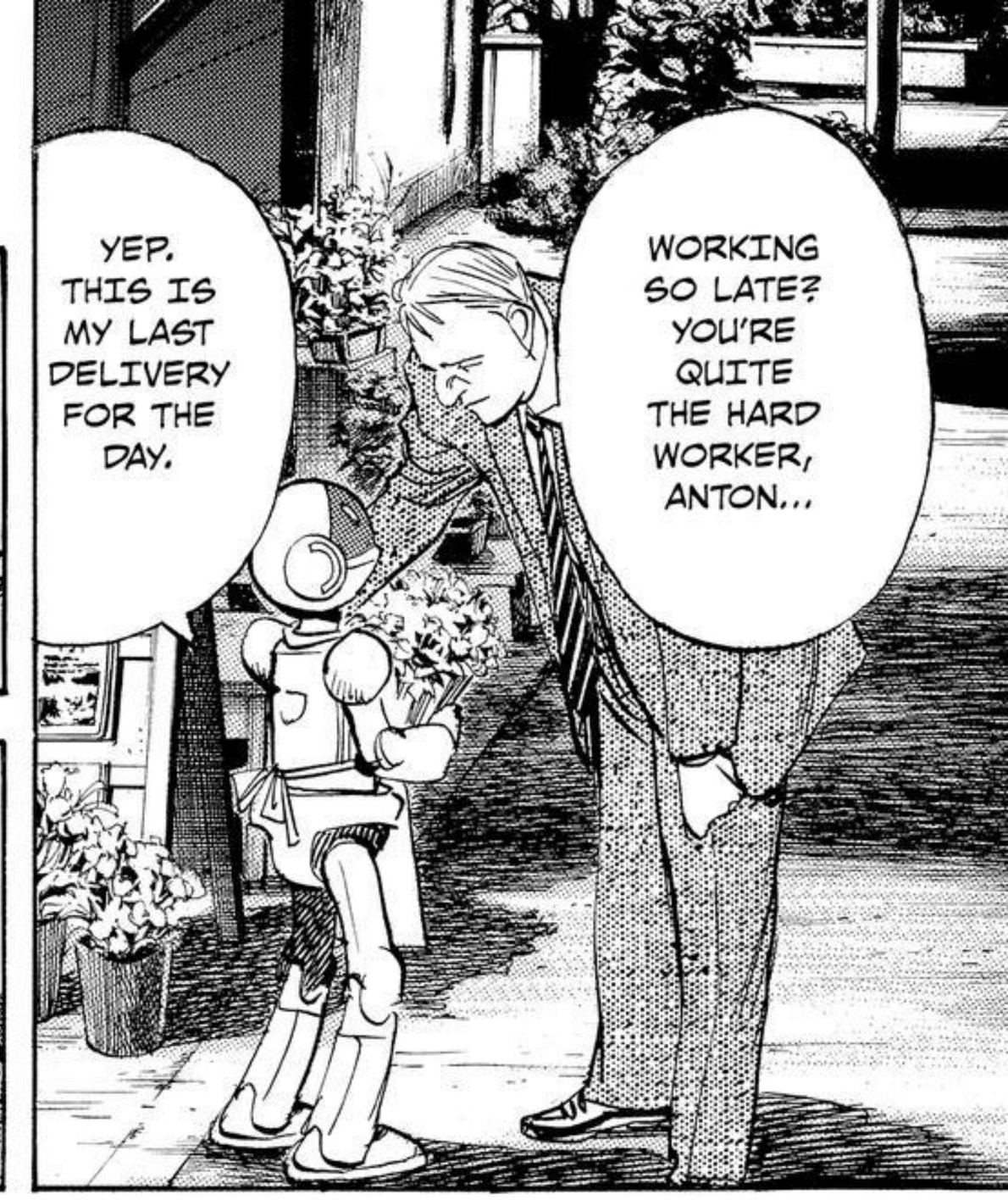
GESICHT!!



AMSTERDAM

HELLO, MR. GESICHT...


HELLO...

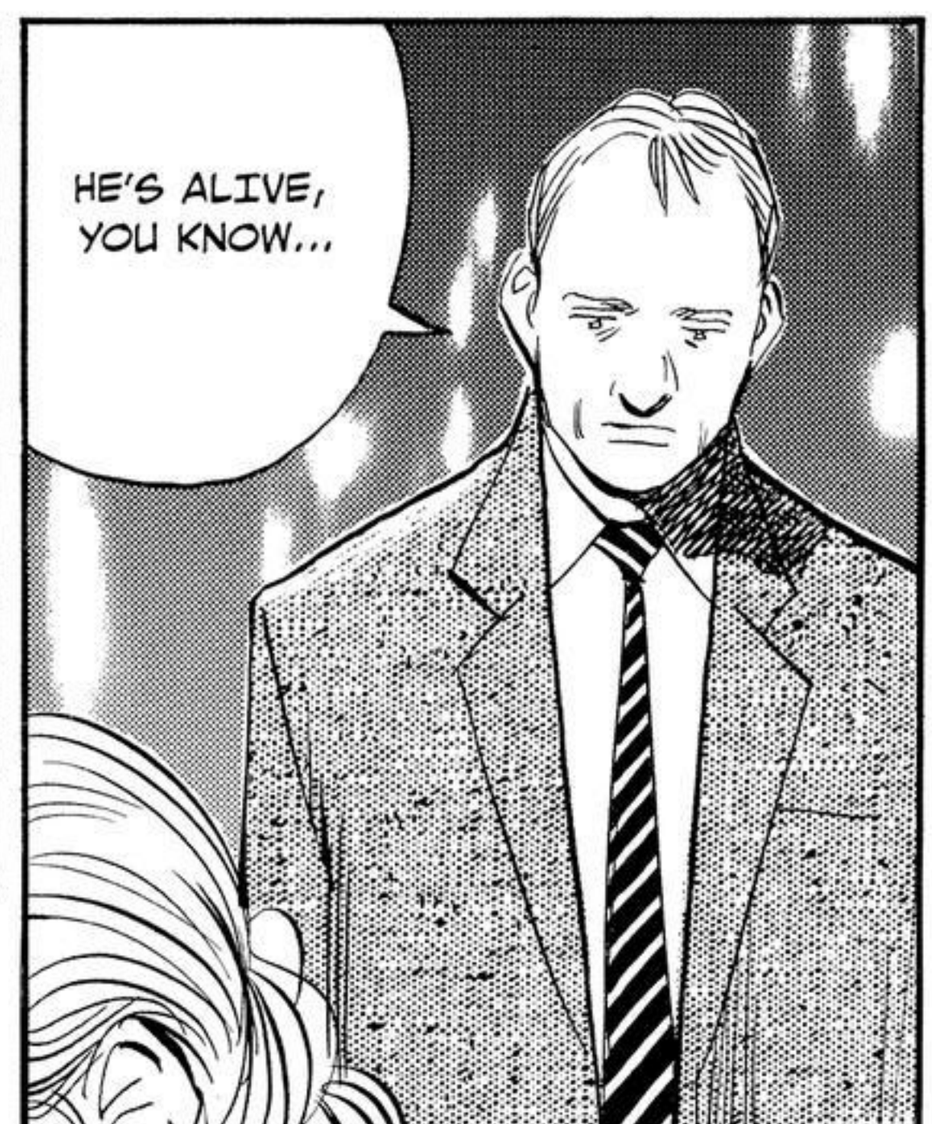

YEP. THIS IS MY LAST DELIVERY FOR THE DAY.
WORKING SO LATE? YOU'RE QUITE THE HARD WORKER, ANTON...

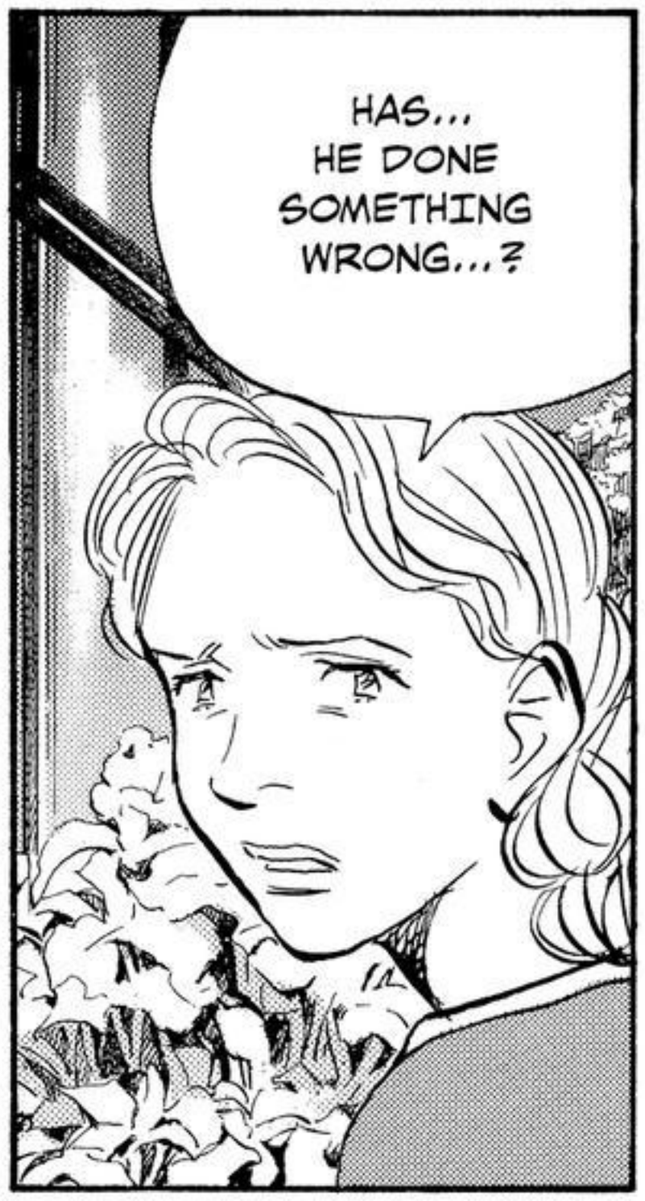
MY WIFE...

HOW NICE. I'M ENVIOUS.

OF COURSE. WHO'S IT FOR?
I'D LIKE TO BUY A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS.

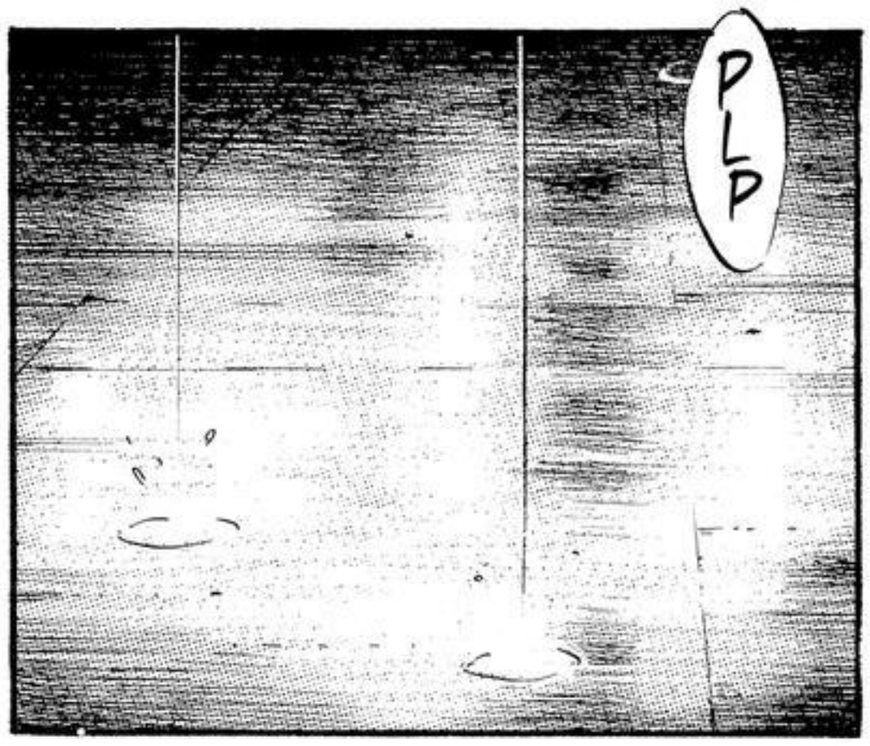
SAHAD IS ALIVE.


HE'S ALIVE, YOU KNOW...

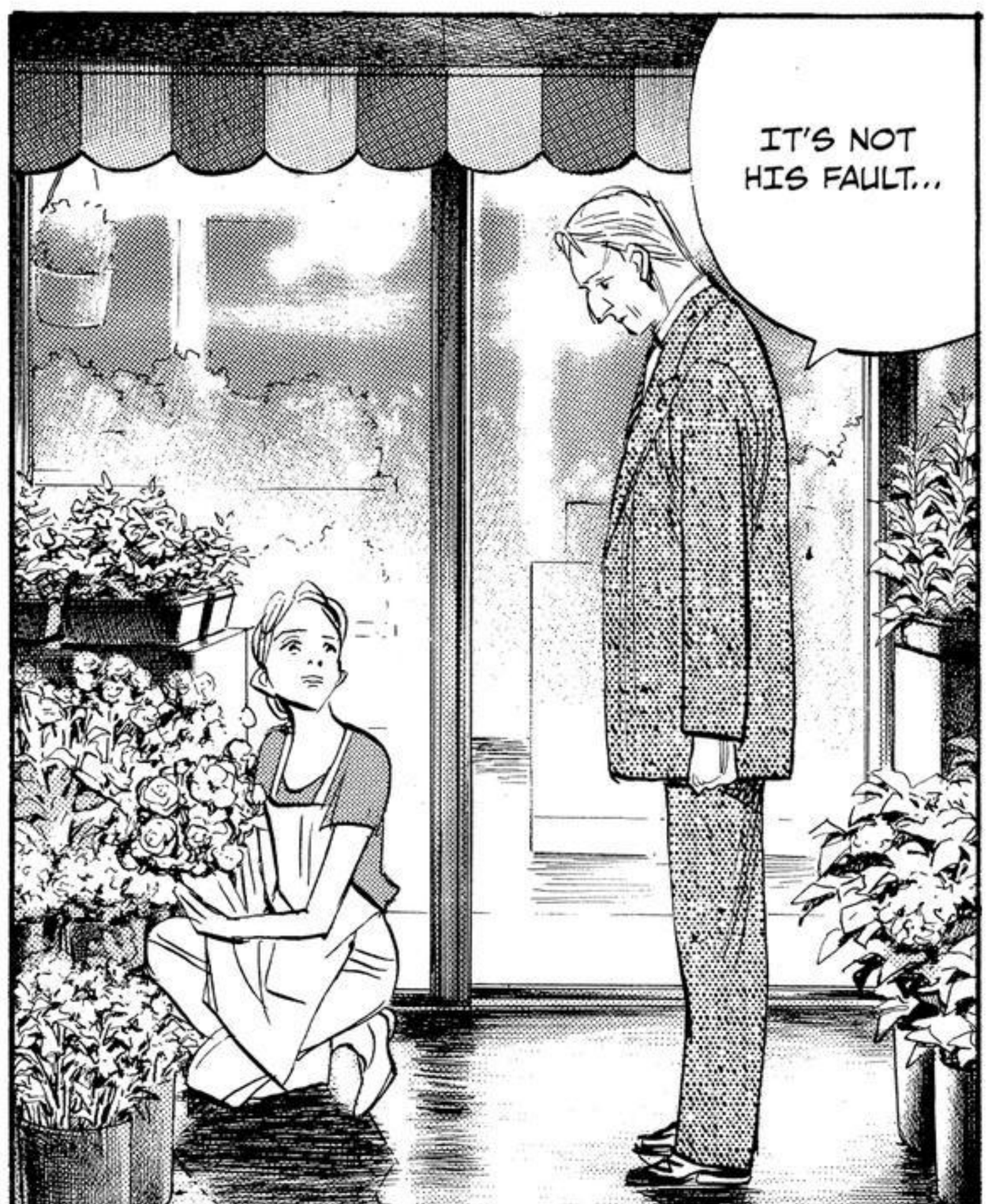

HAS... HE DONE SOMETHING WRONG...?

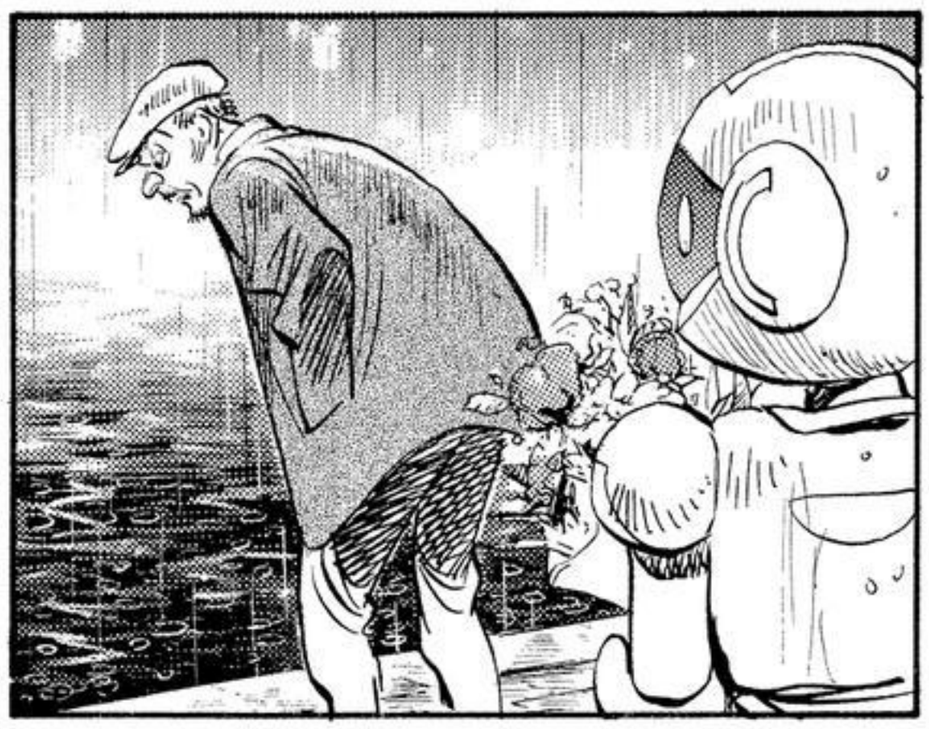
R... REALLY ...?

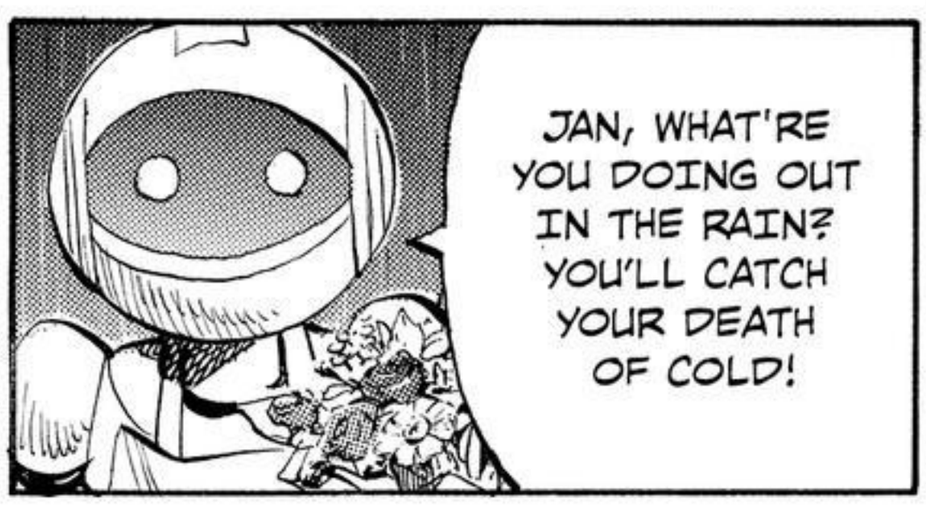
HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON...


PLP

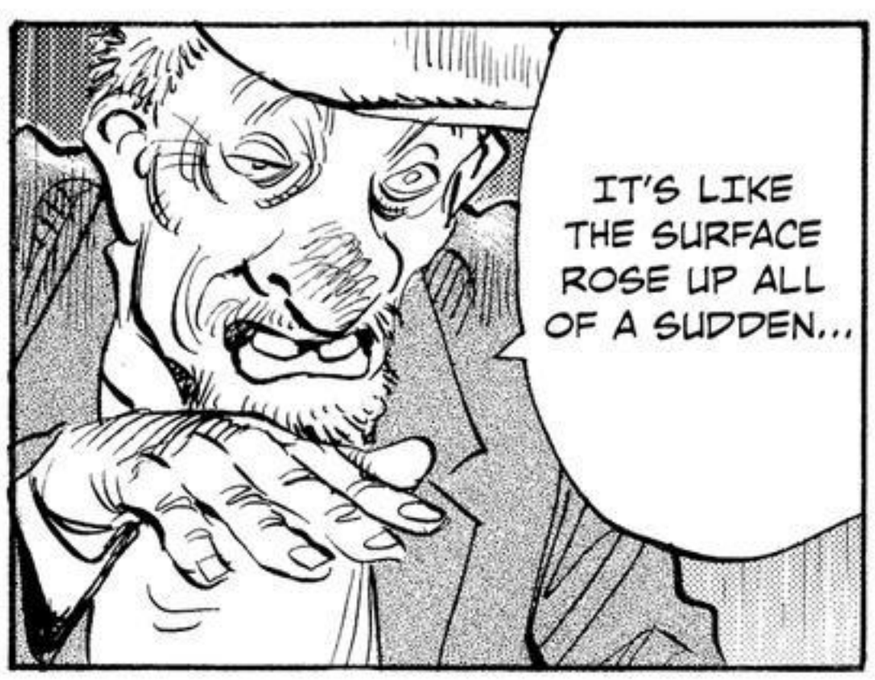
PLP
PLP
PLP

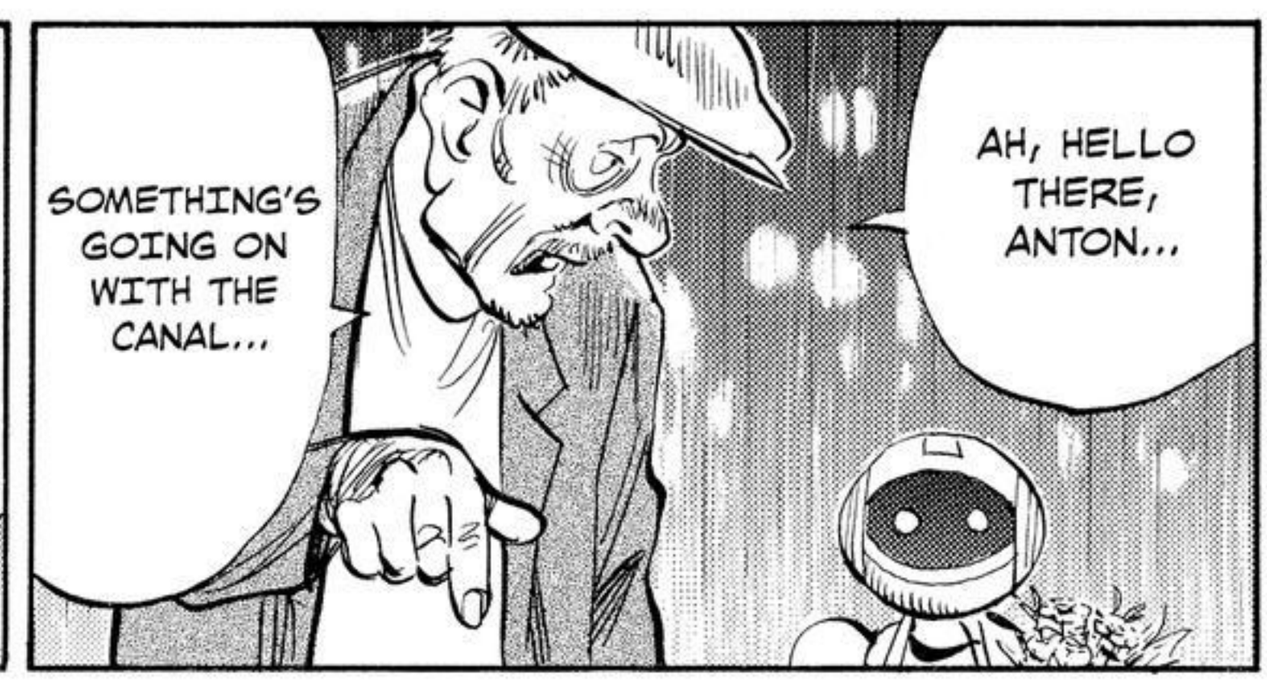

IT'S NOT HIS FAULT...



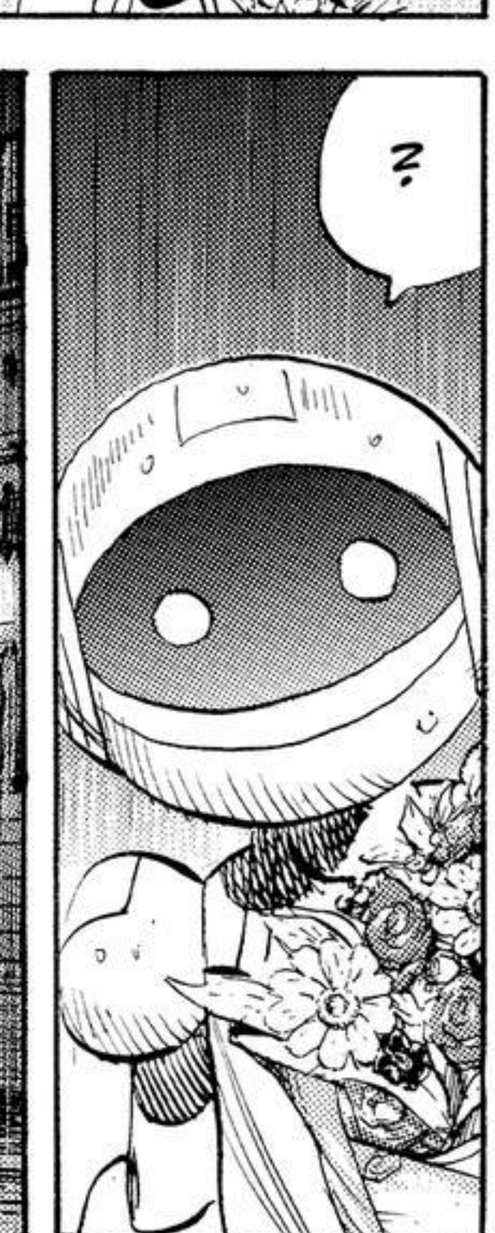

JAN, WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT IN THE RAIN? YOU'LL CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD!

FSHH

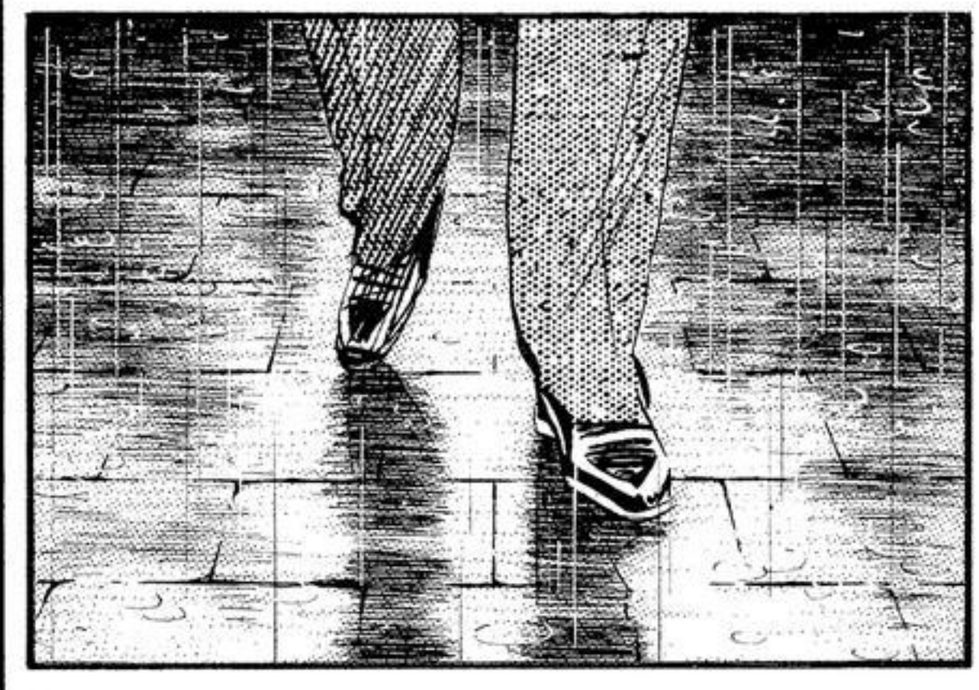

IT'S LIKE THE SURFACE ROSE UP ALL OF A SUDDEN...

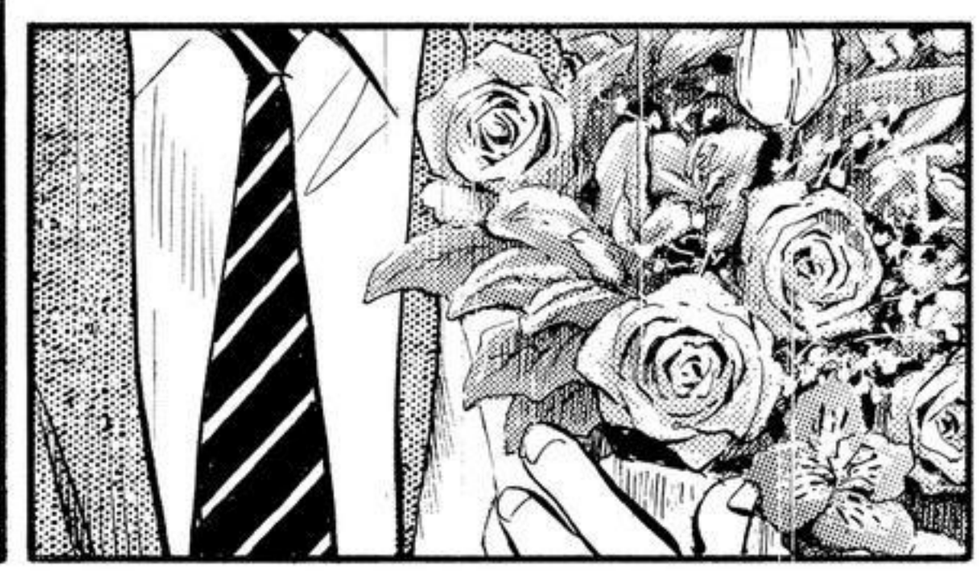

SOMETHING'S GOING ON WITH THE CANAL...
AH, HELLO THERE, ANTON...

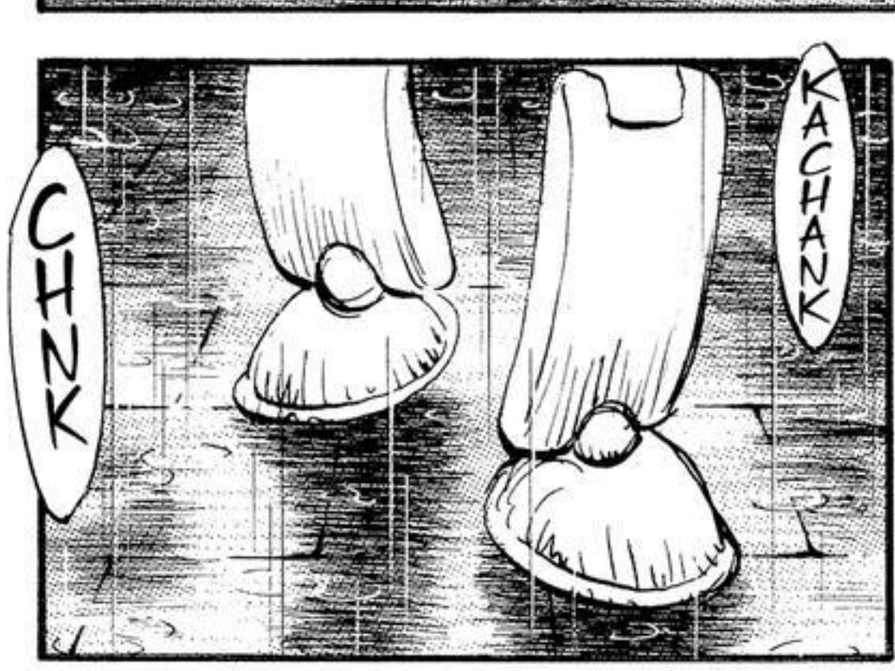
FSHHH


?

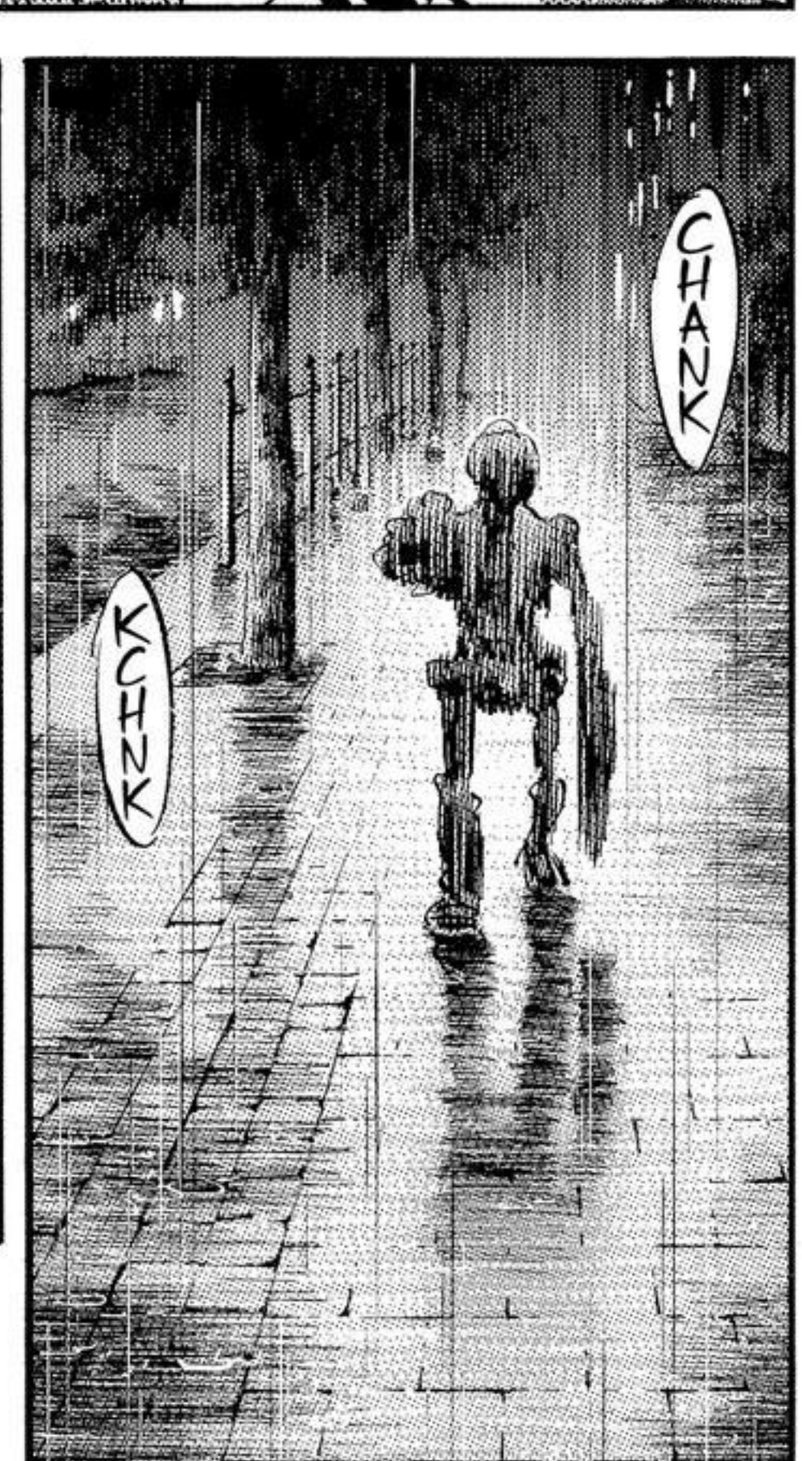
FSHHH



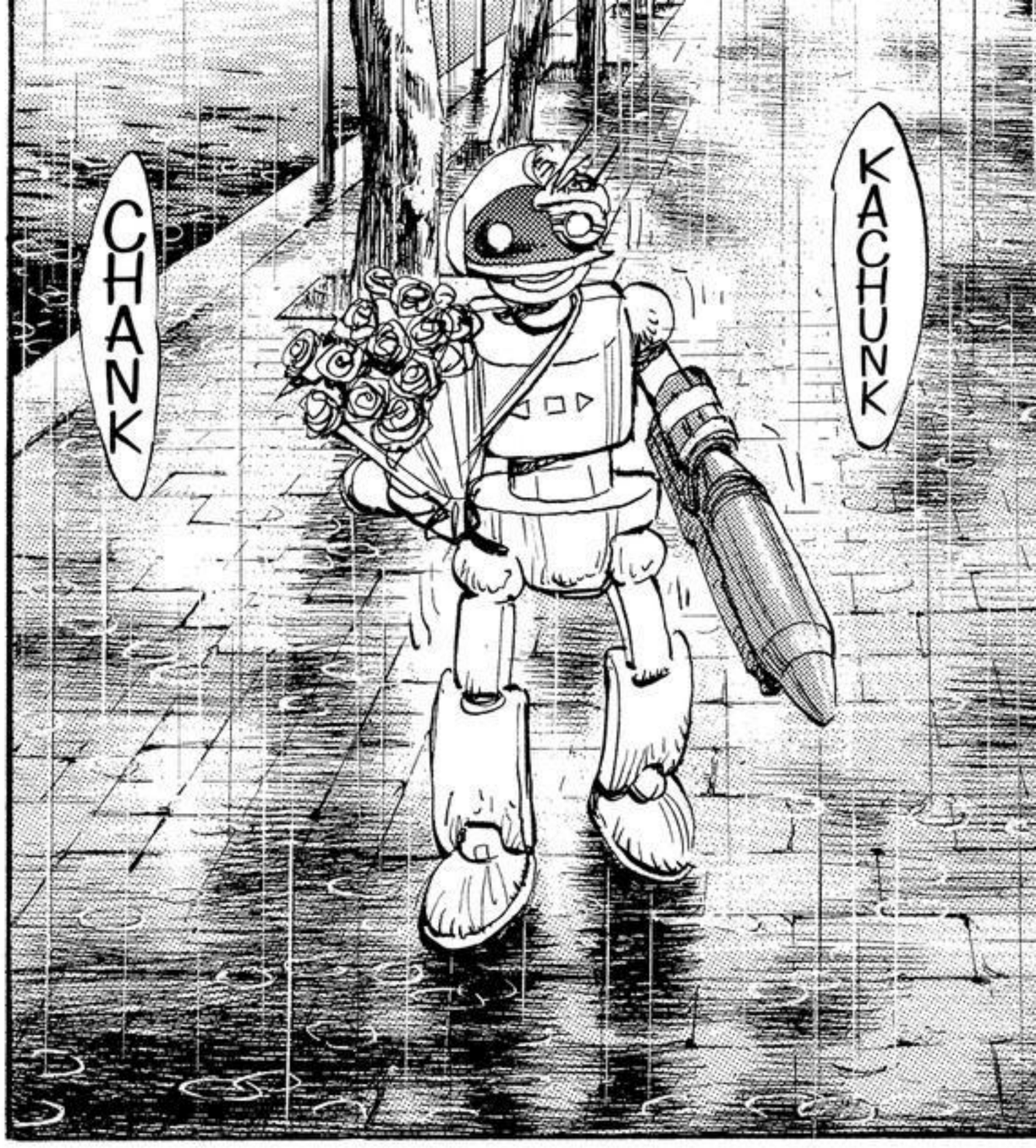


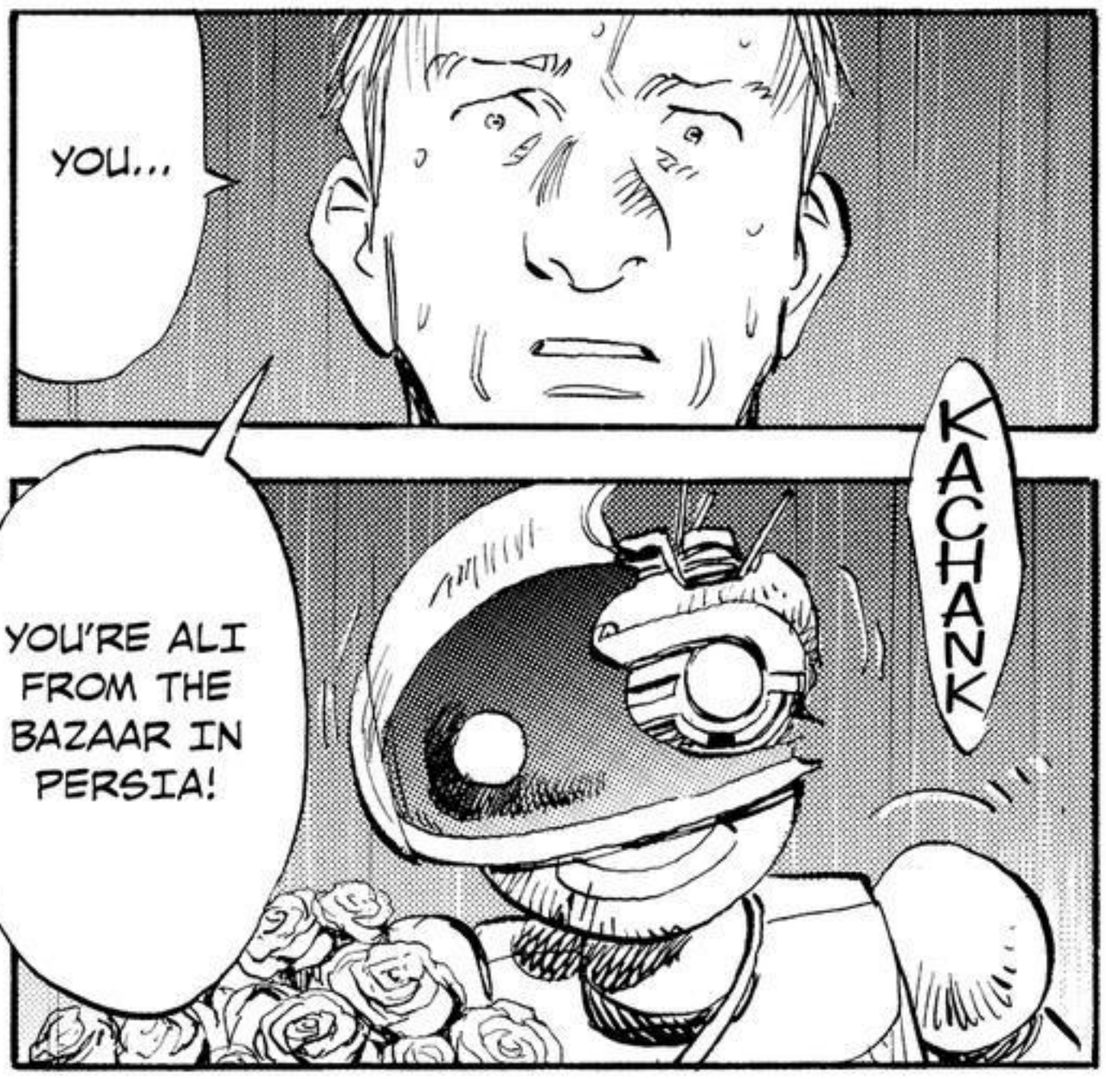

CHNK
KACHANK

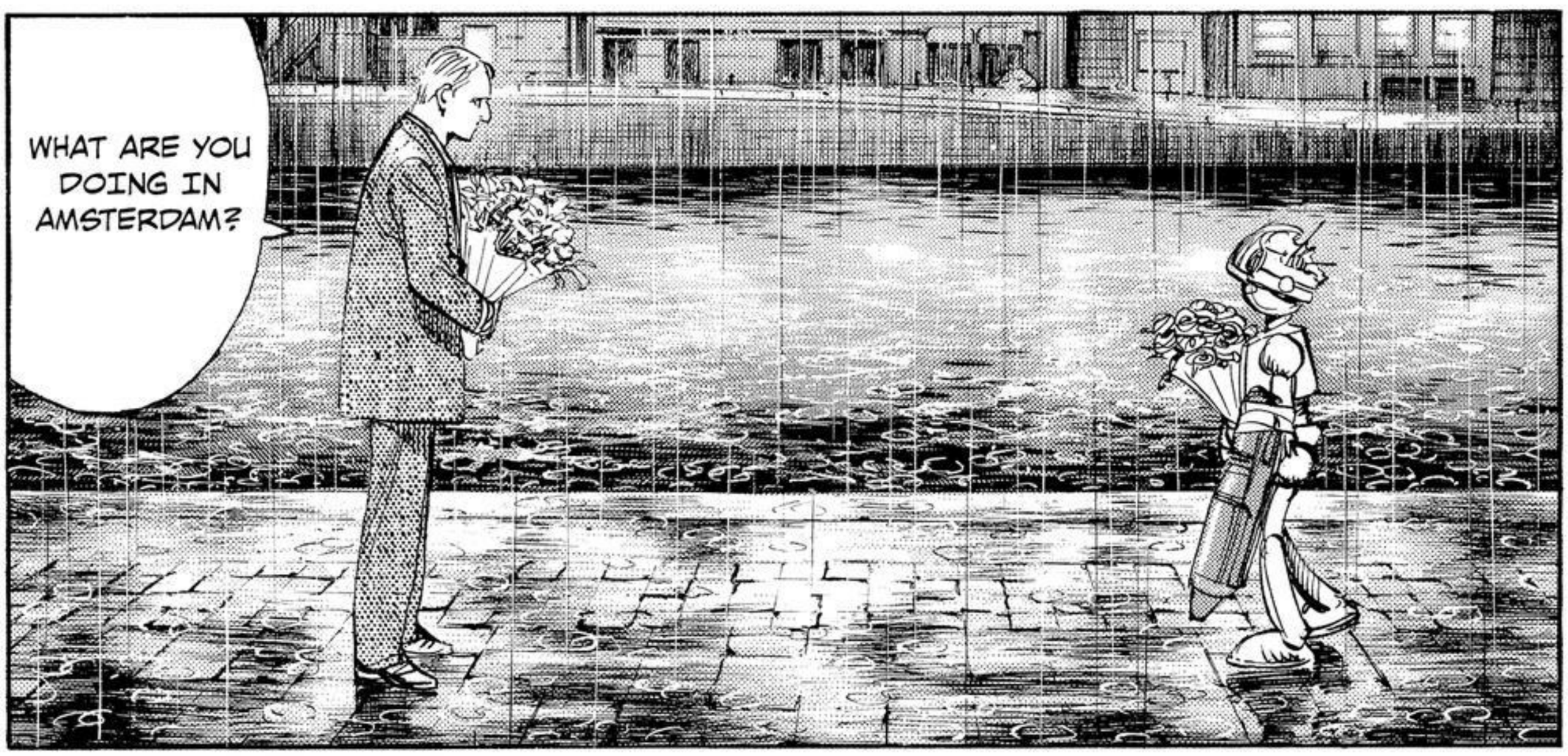
ANTON, WE MEET AGAIN.


CHANK
KCHNK

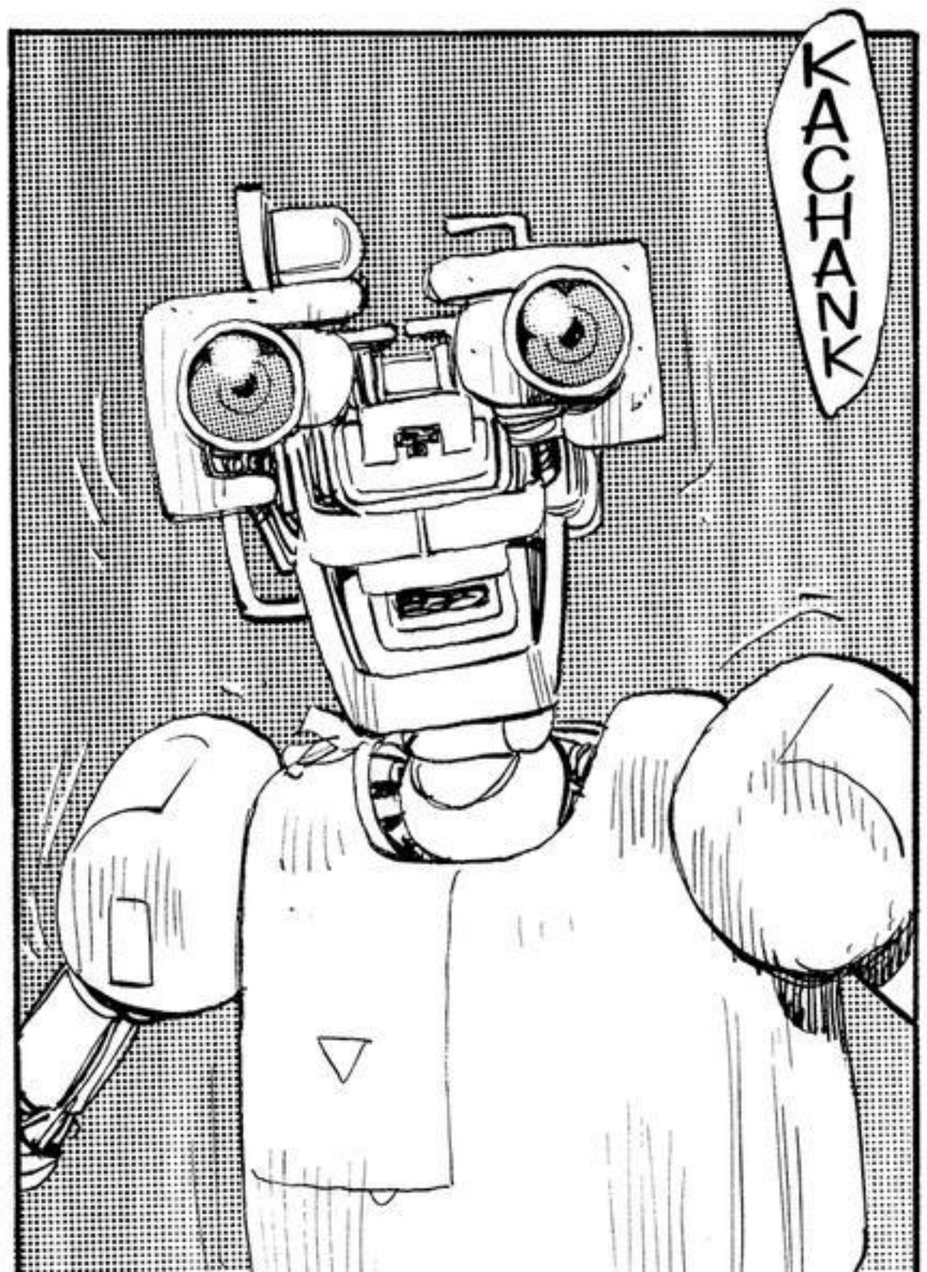
?

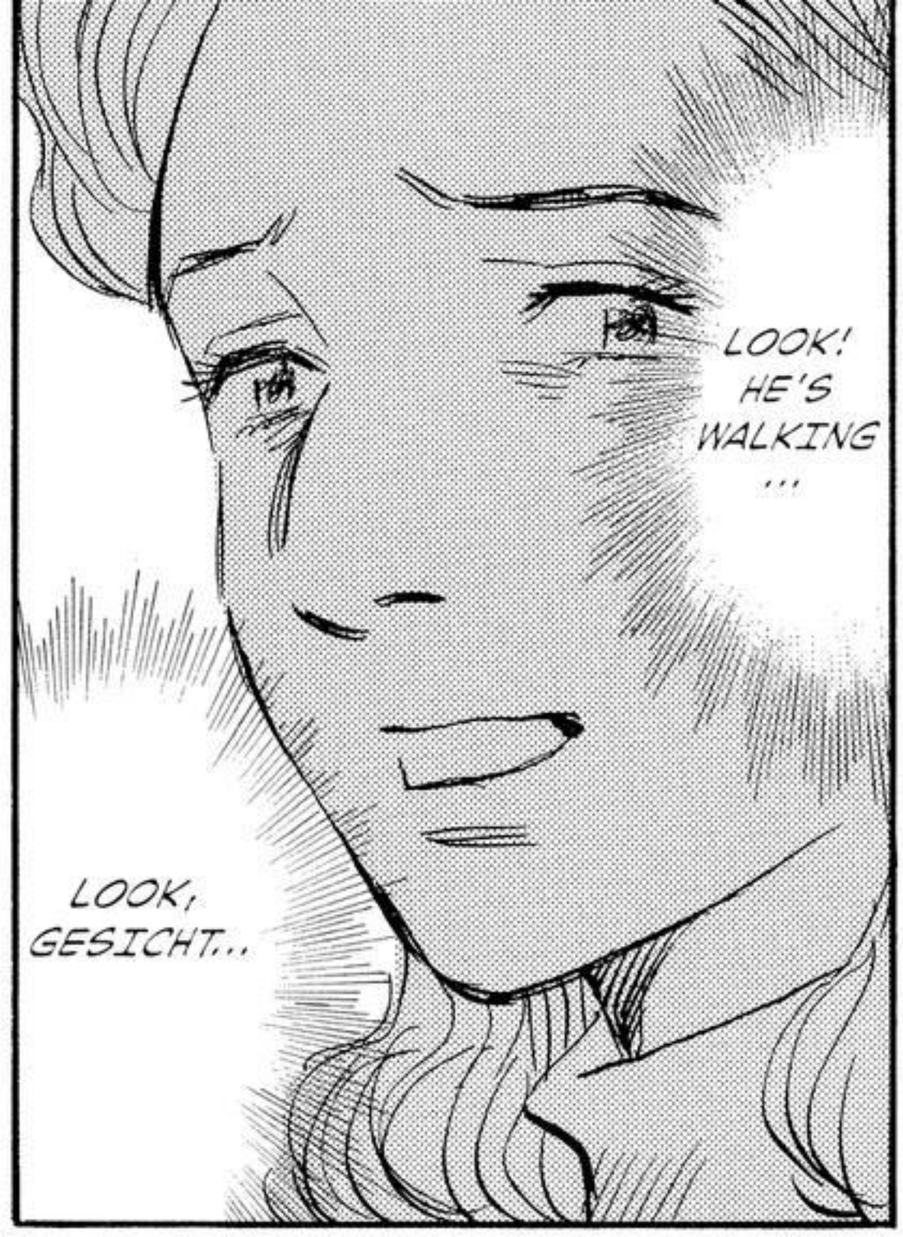

CHANK
KACHUNK


YOU...
YOU'RE ALI FROM THE BAZAAR IN PERSIA!
KACHANK

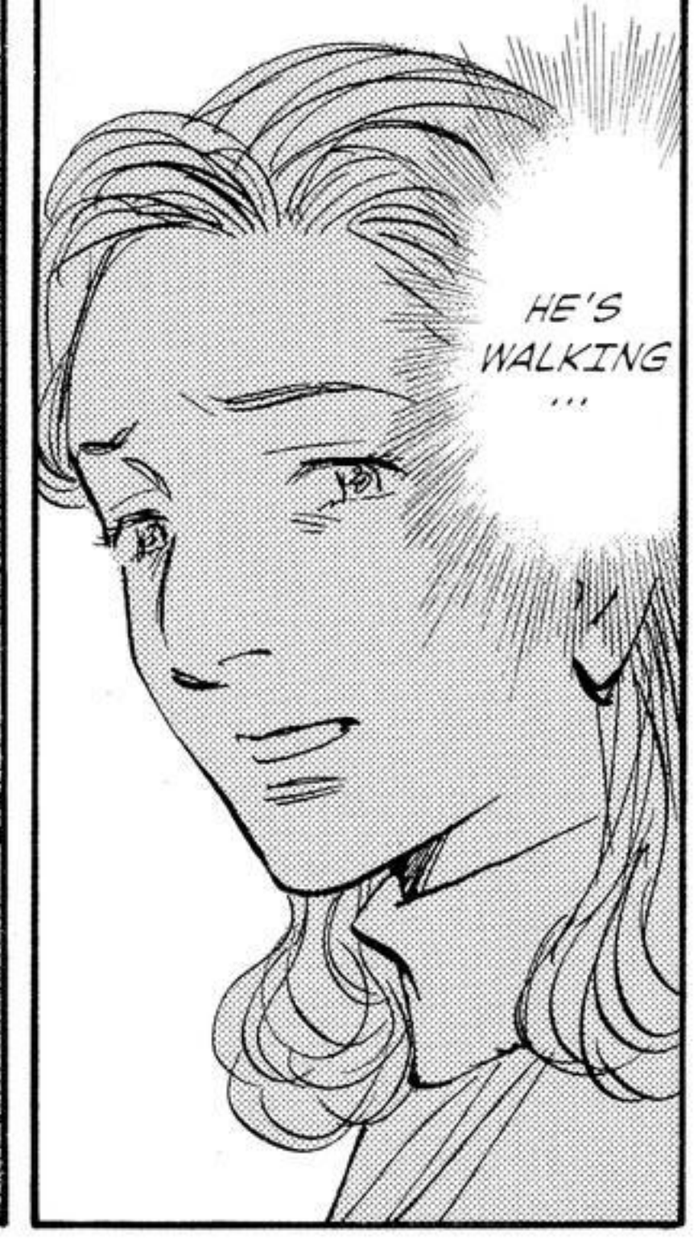

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN AMSTERDAM?

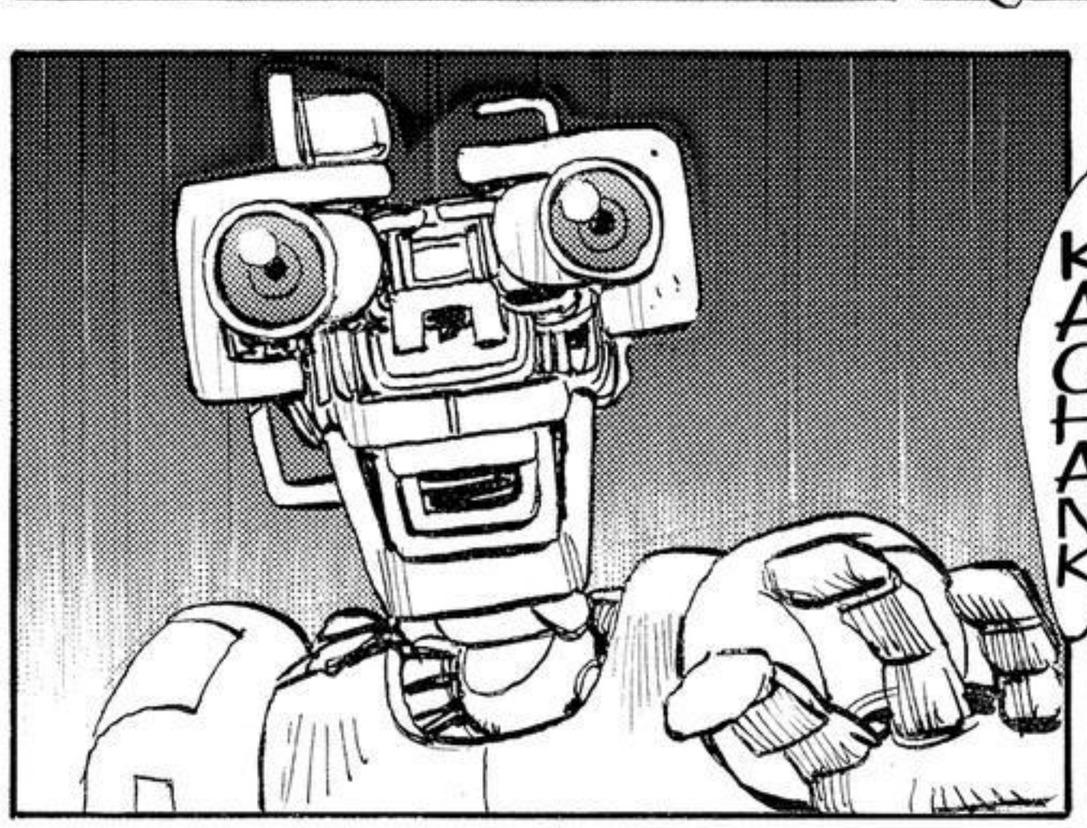
!!


KACHANK


LOOK! HE'S WALKING ...
LOOK, GESICHT...

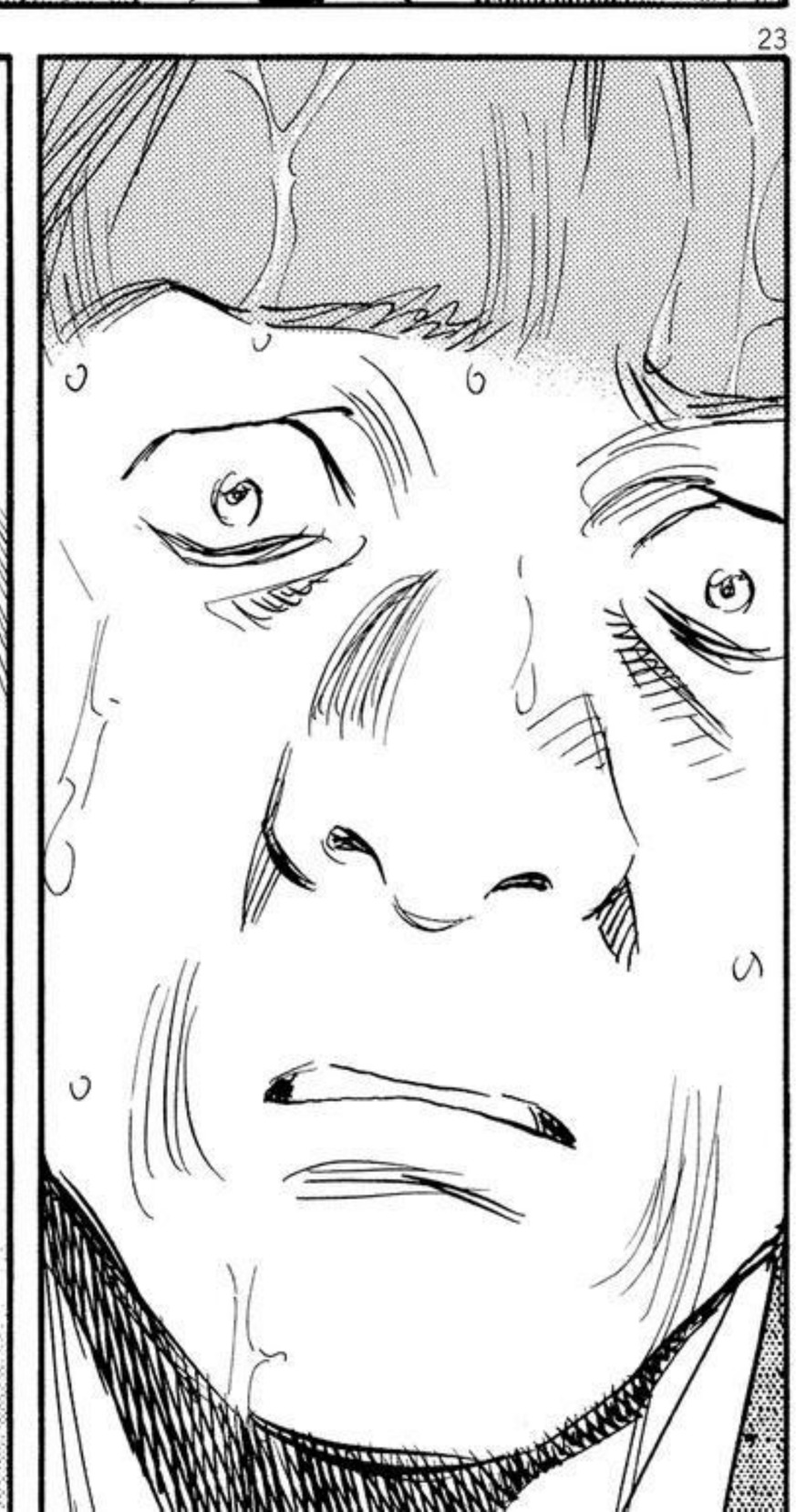
KACHUNK
KACHUNK

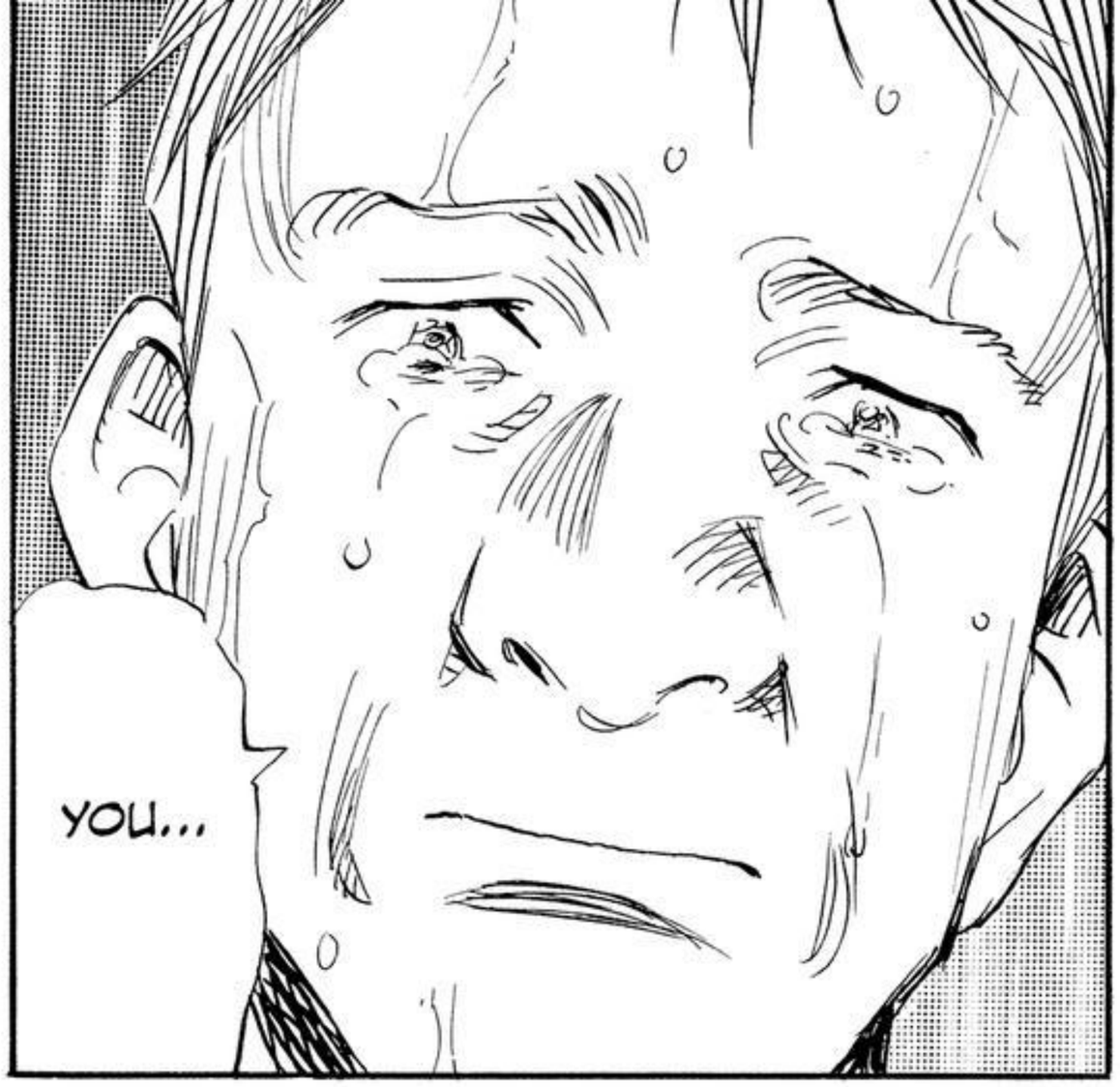

HE'S WALKING ...

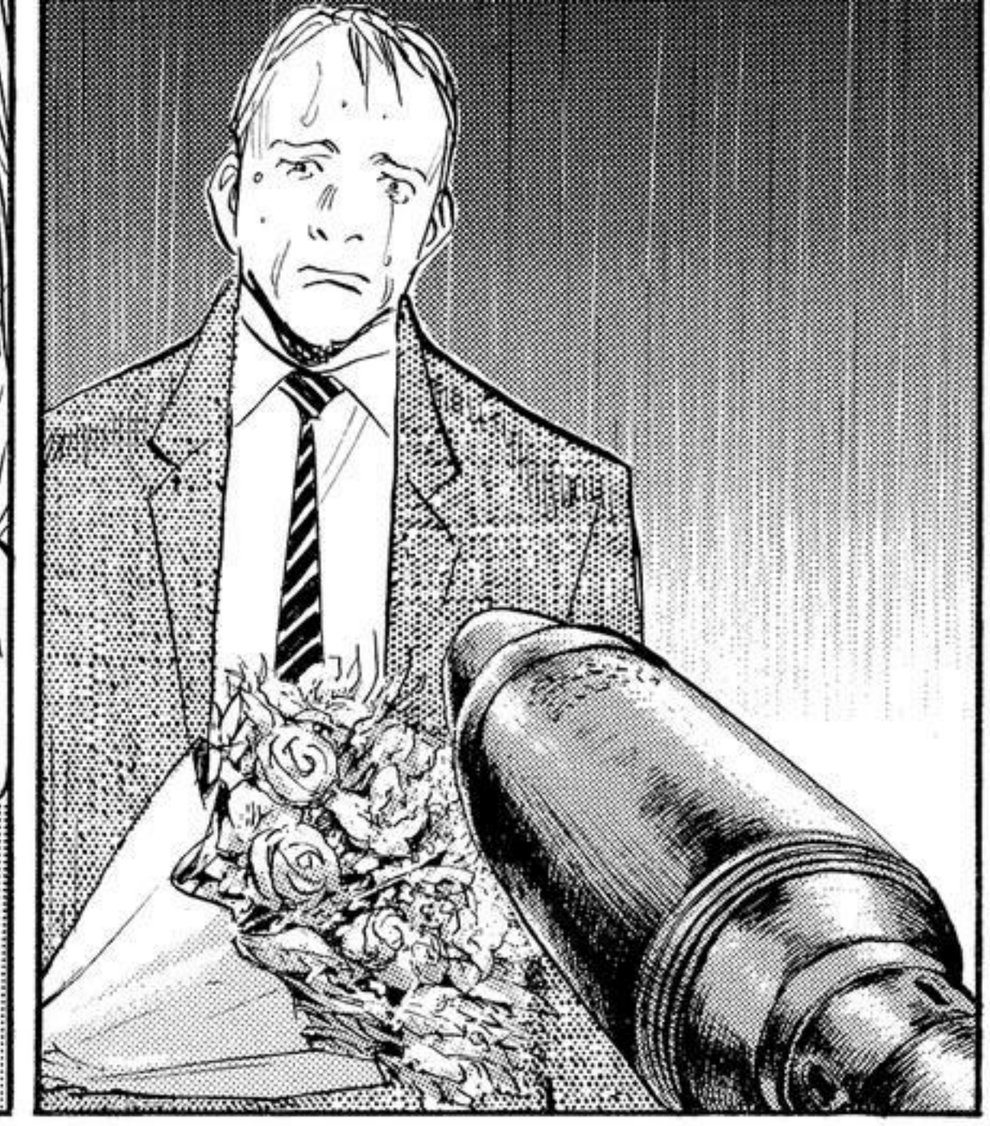

KACHANK

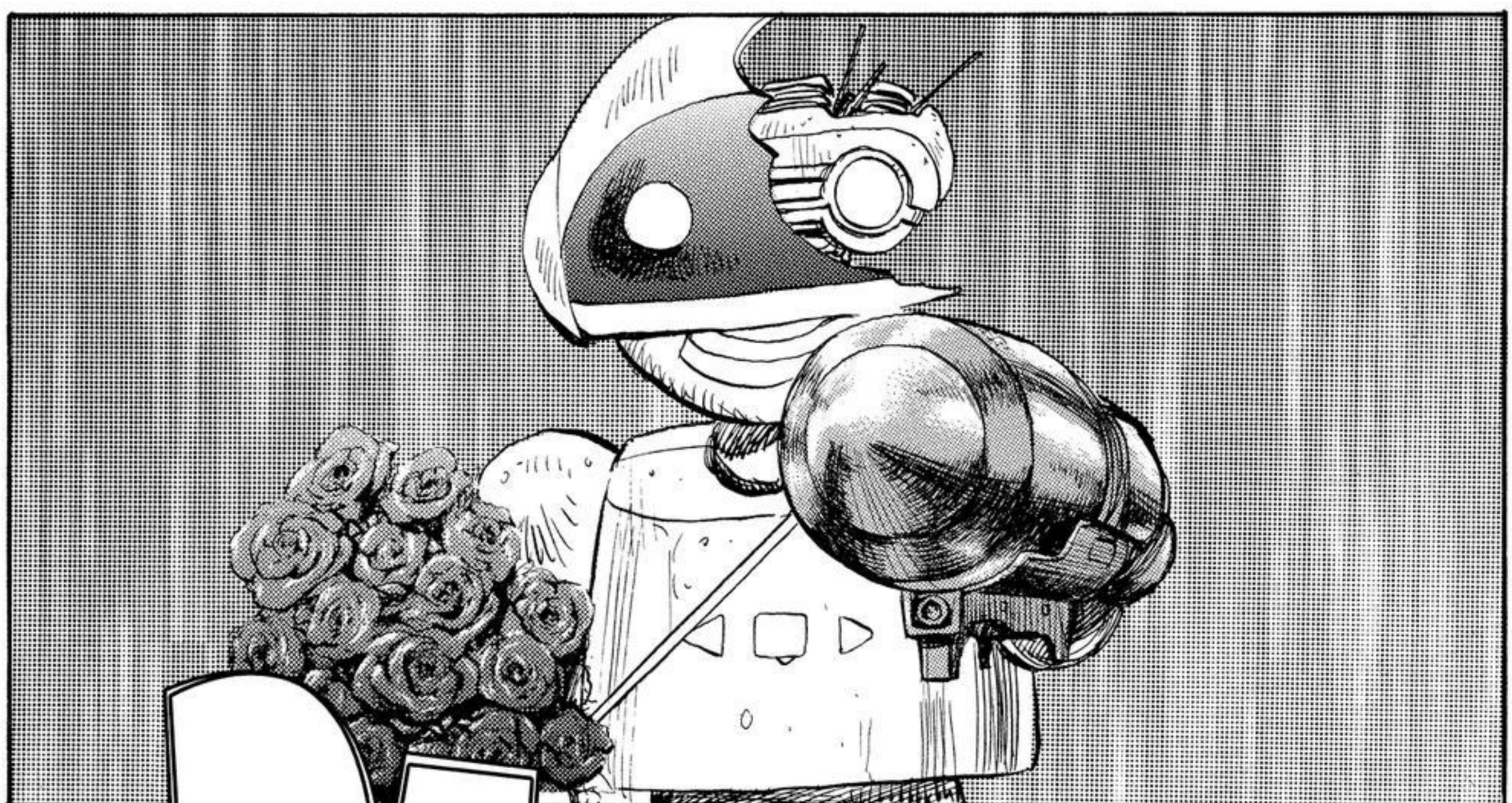
KACHANK

500 ZEUS A BODY.



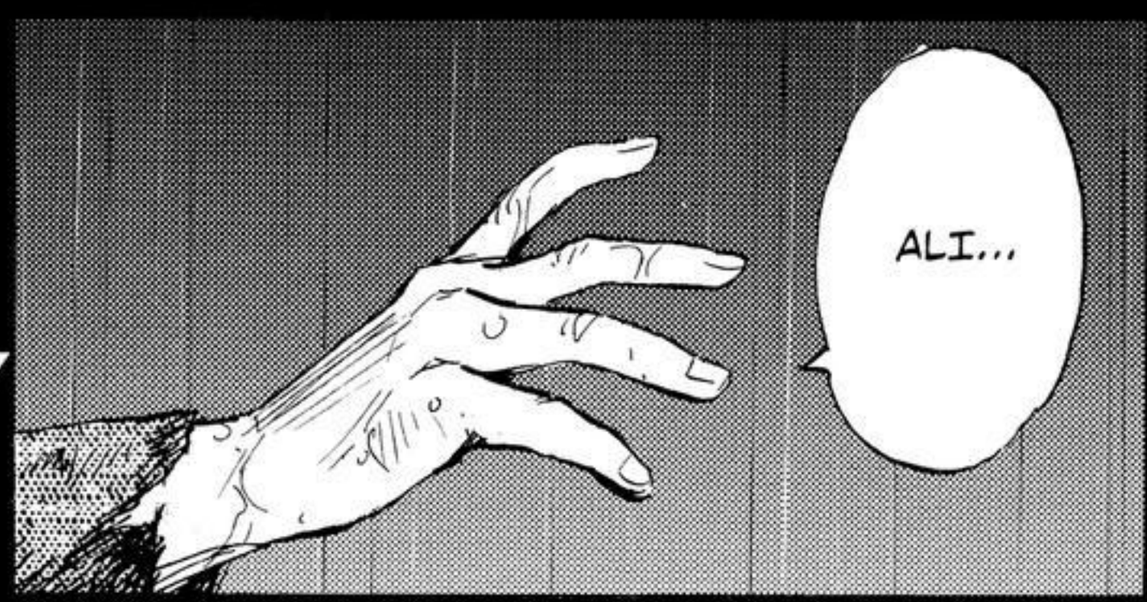

YOU...

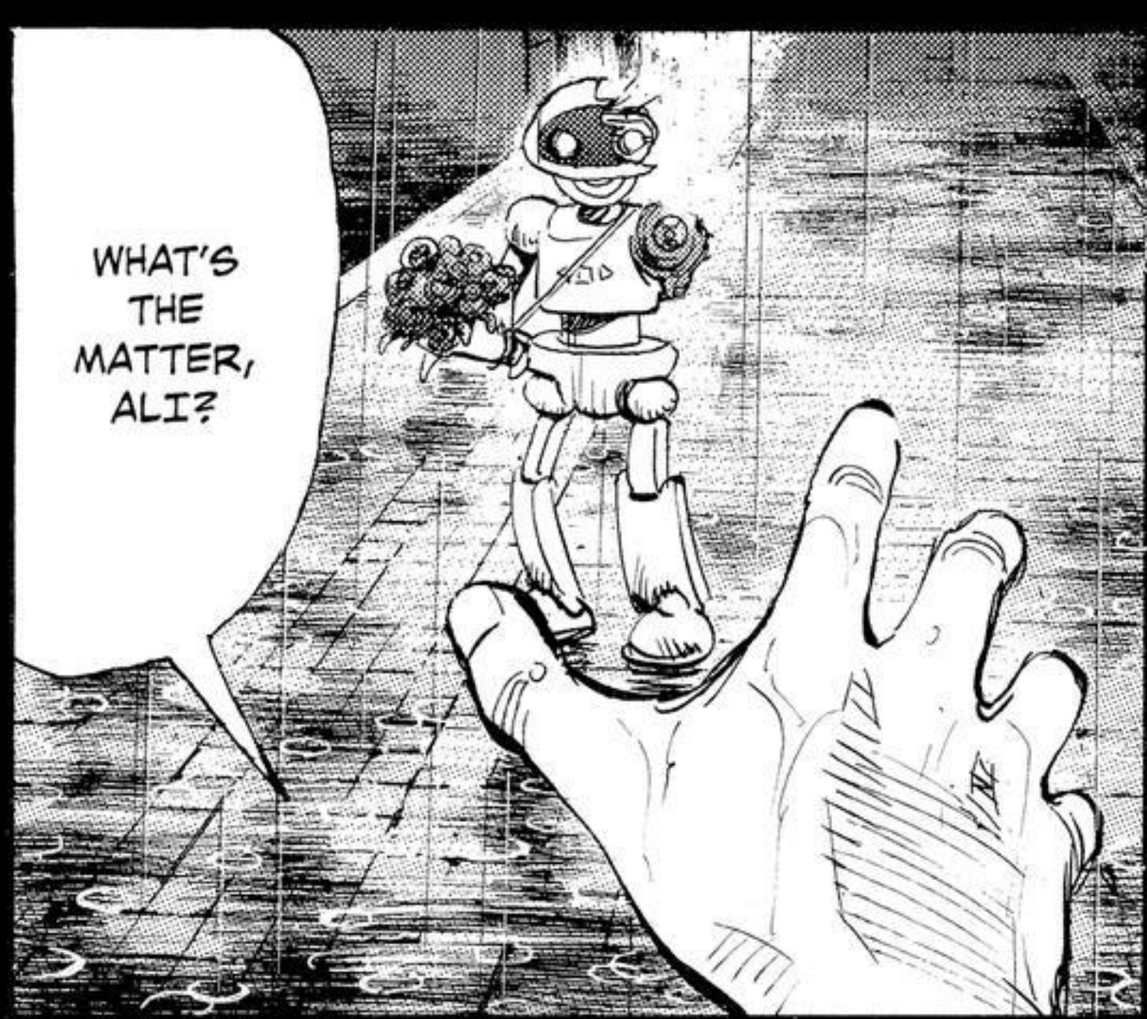


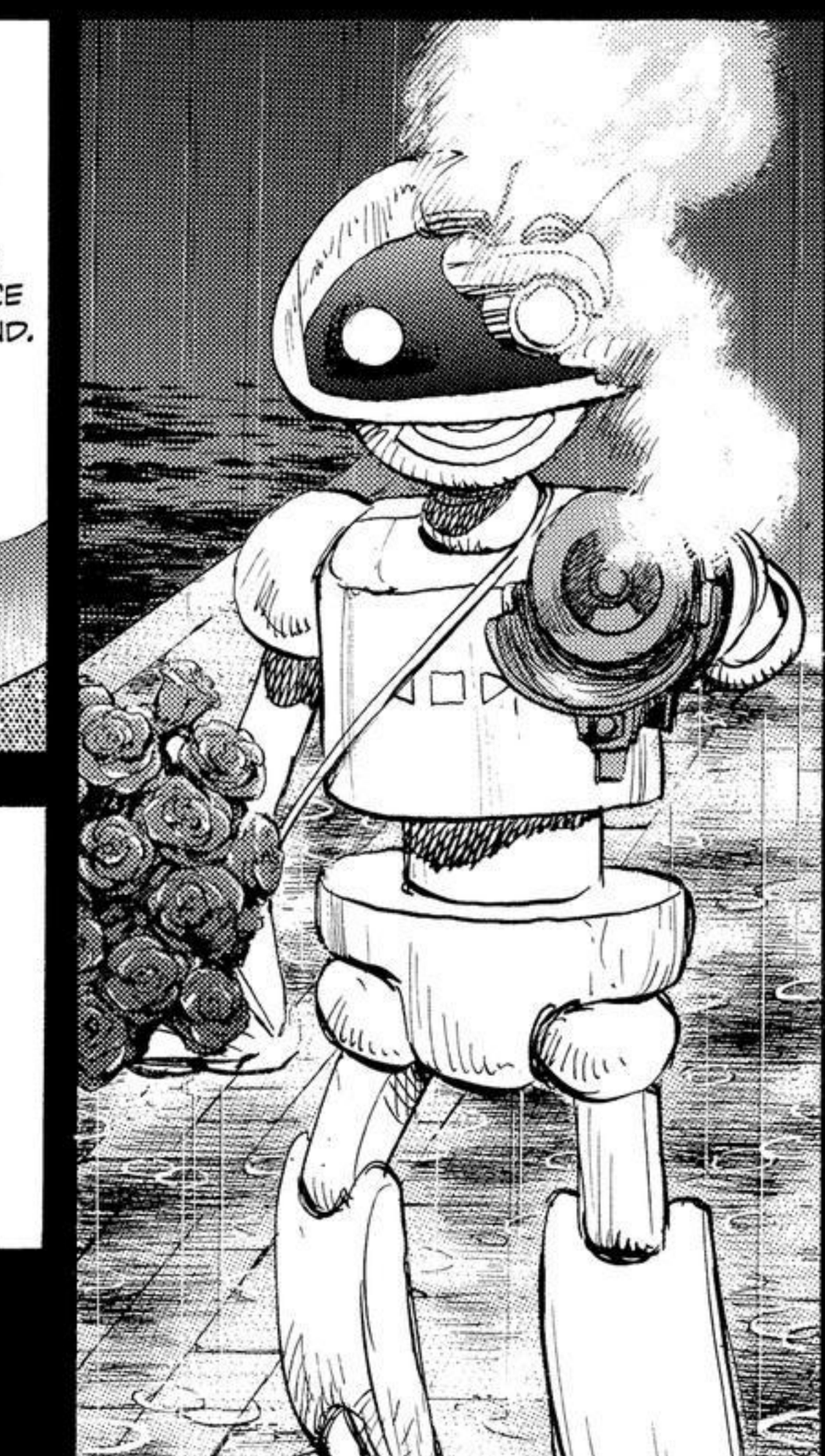


BA
HOOM

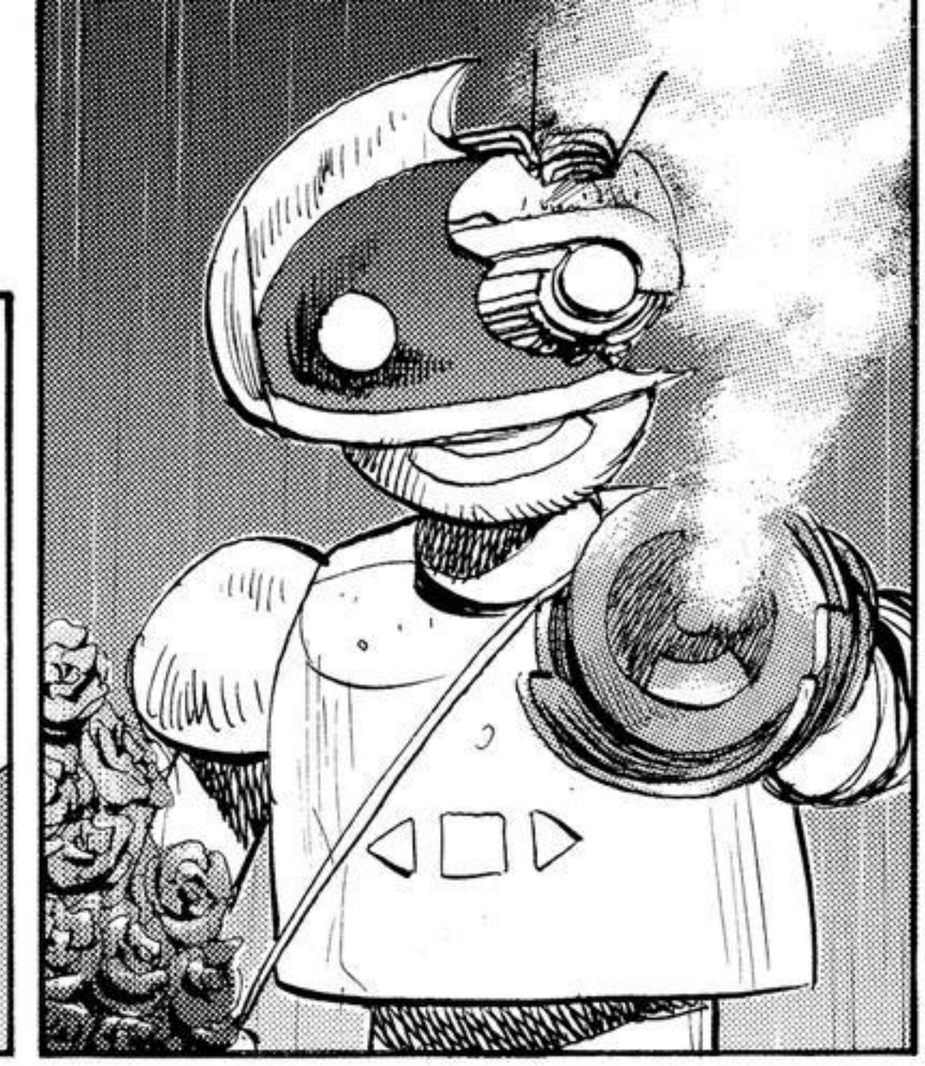
Act 47 REAL TEARS

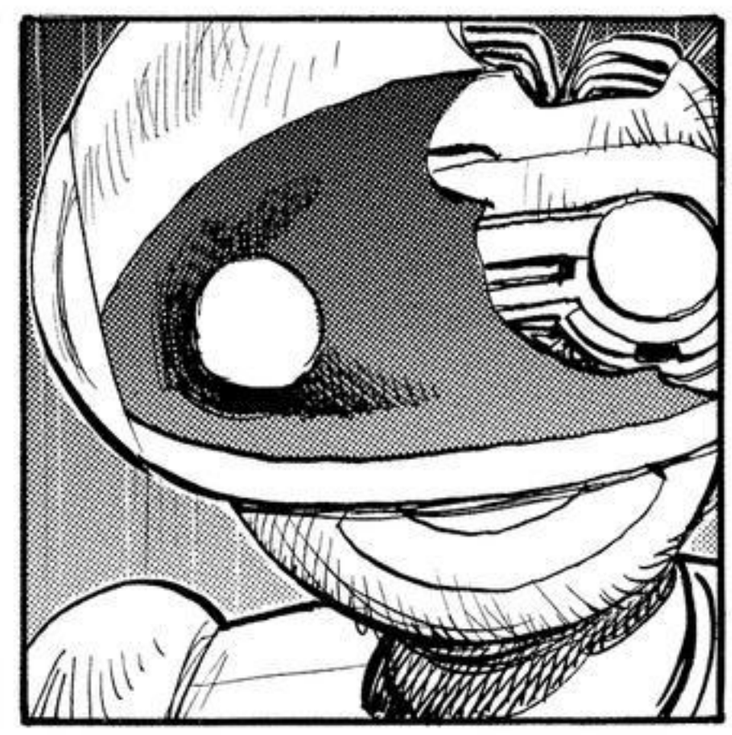


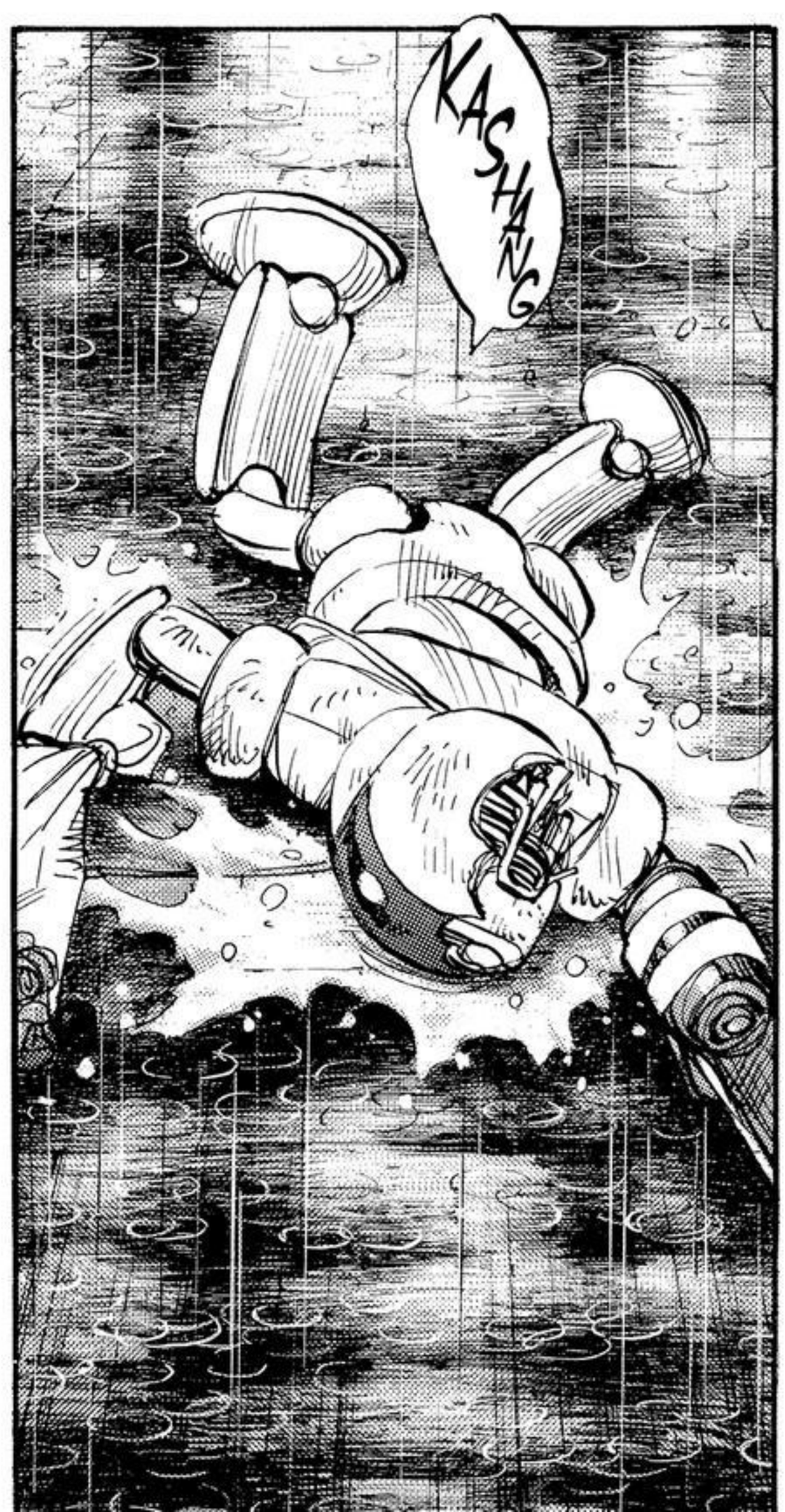


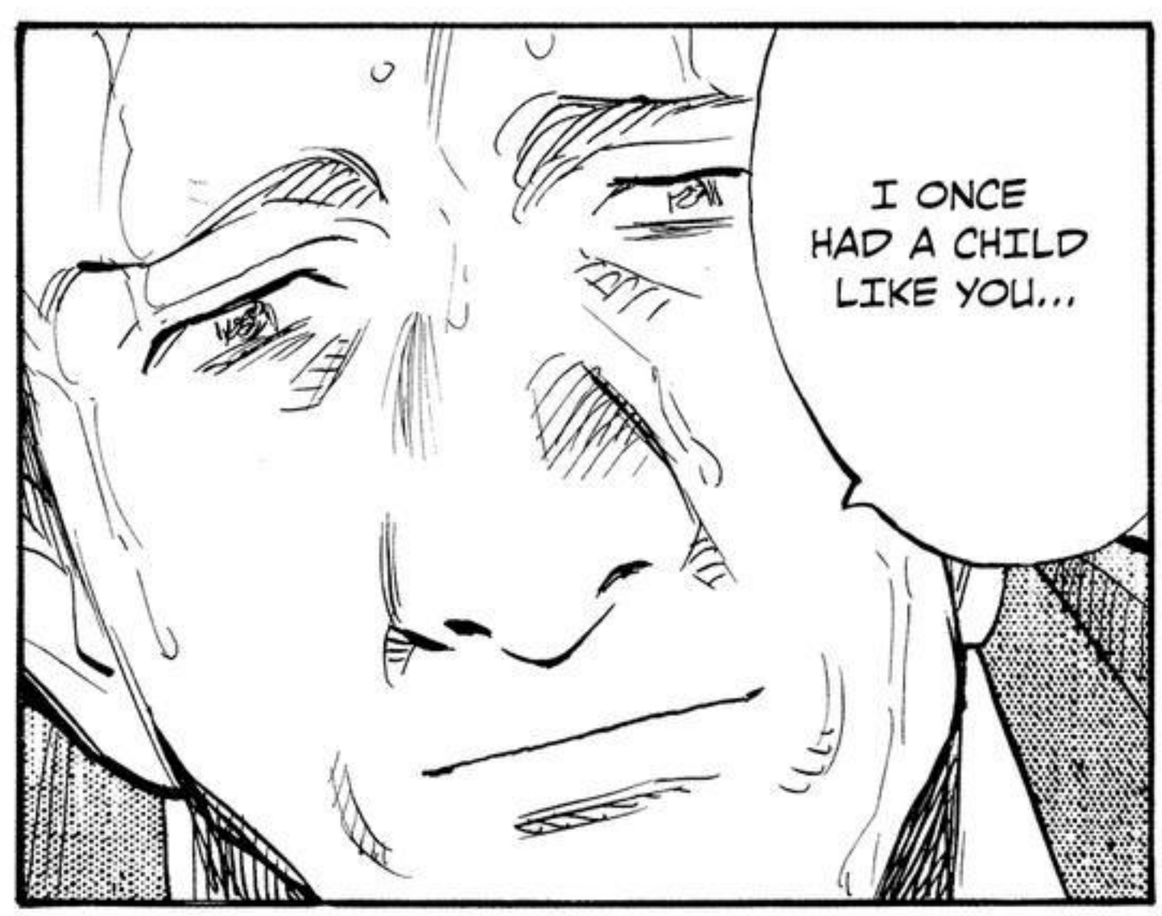


IT'S DANGEROUS, SO COME HERE...
YOU HEARD THAT BLAST, DIDN'T YOU?

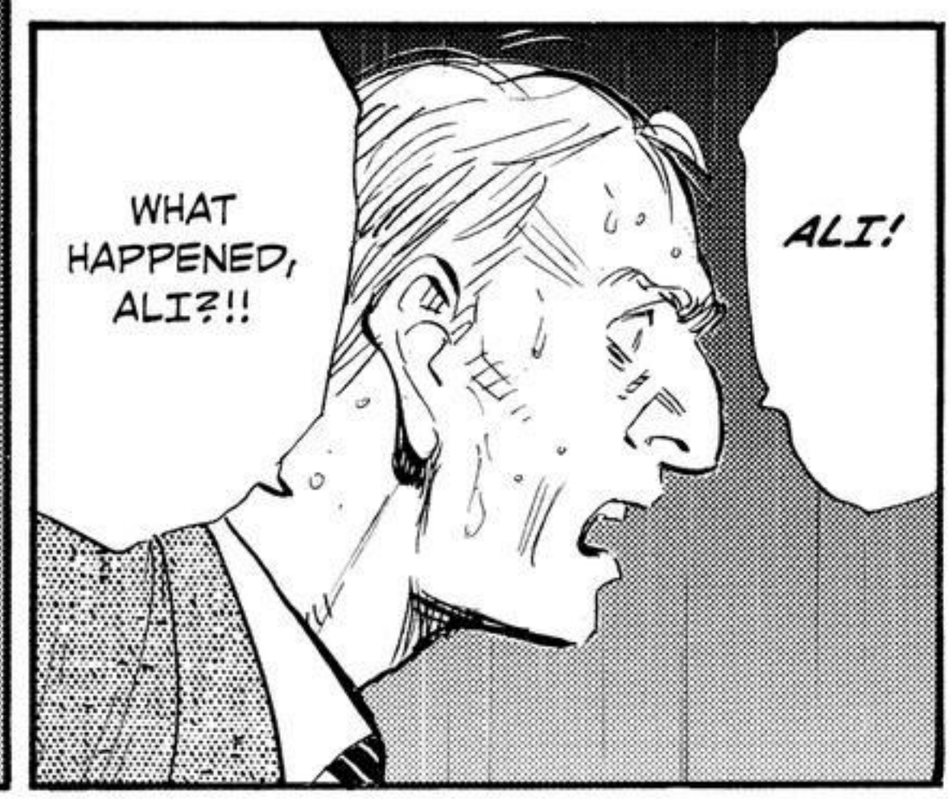


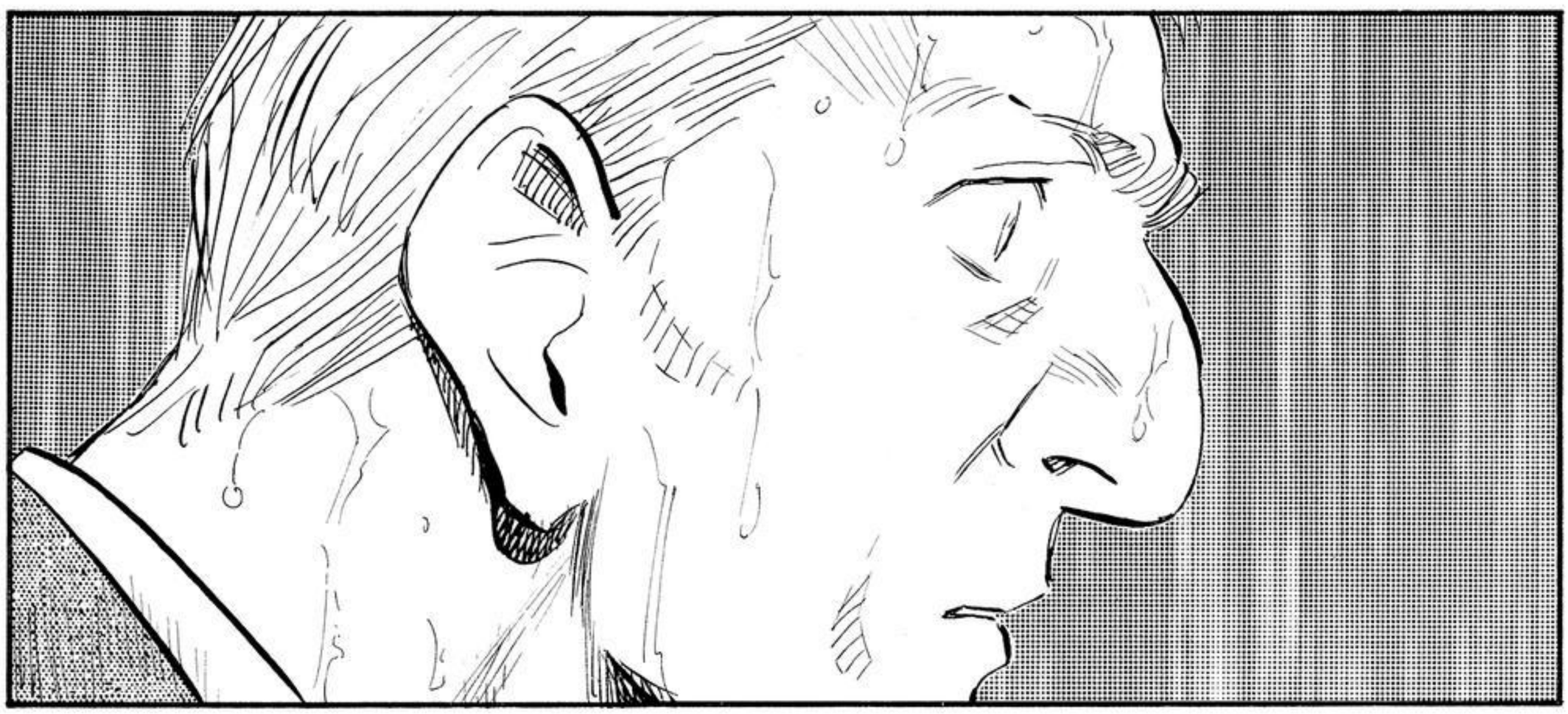


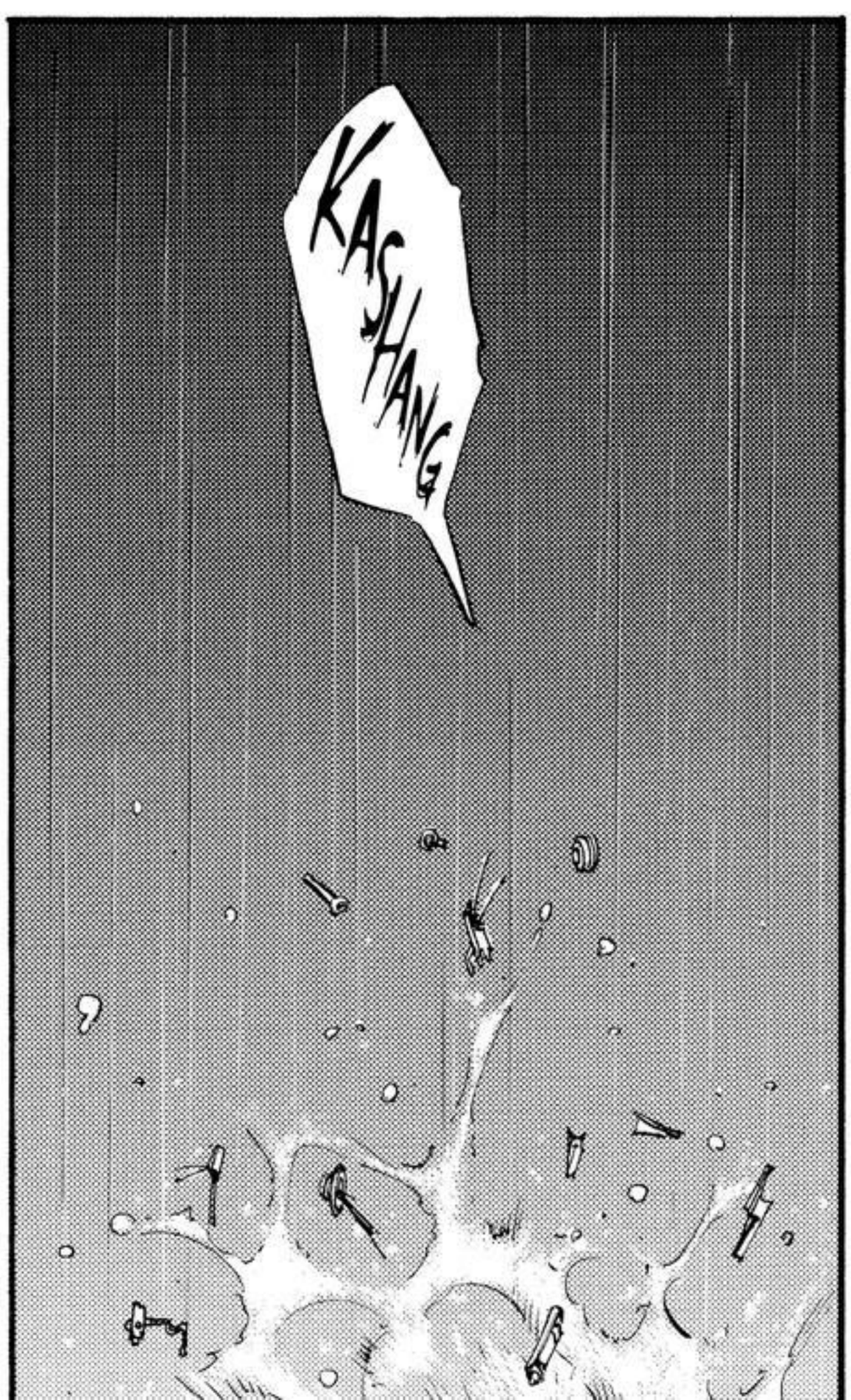

KASHANG

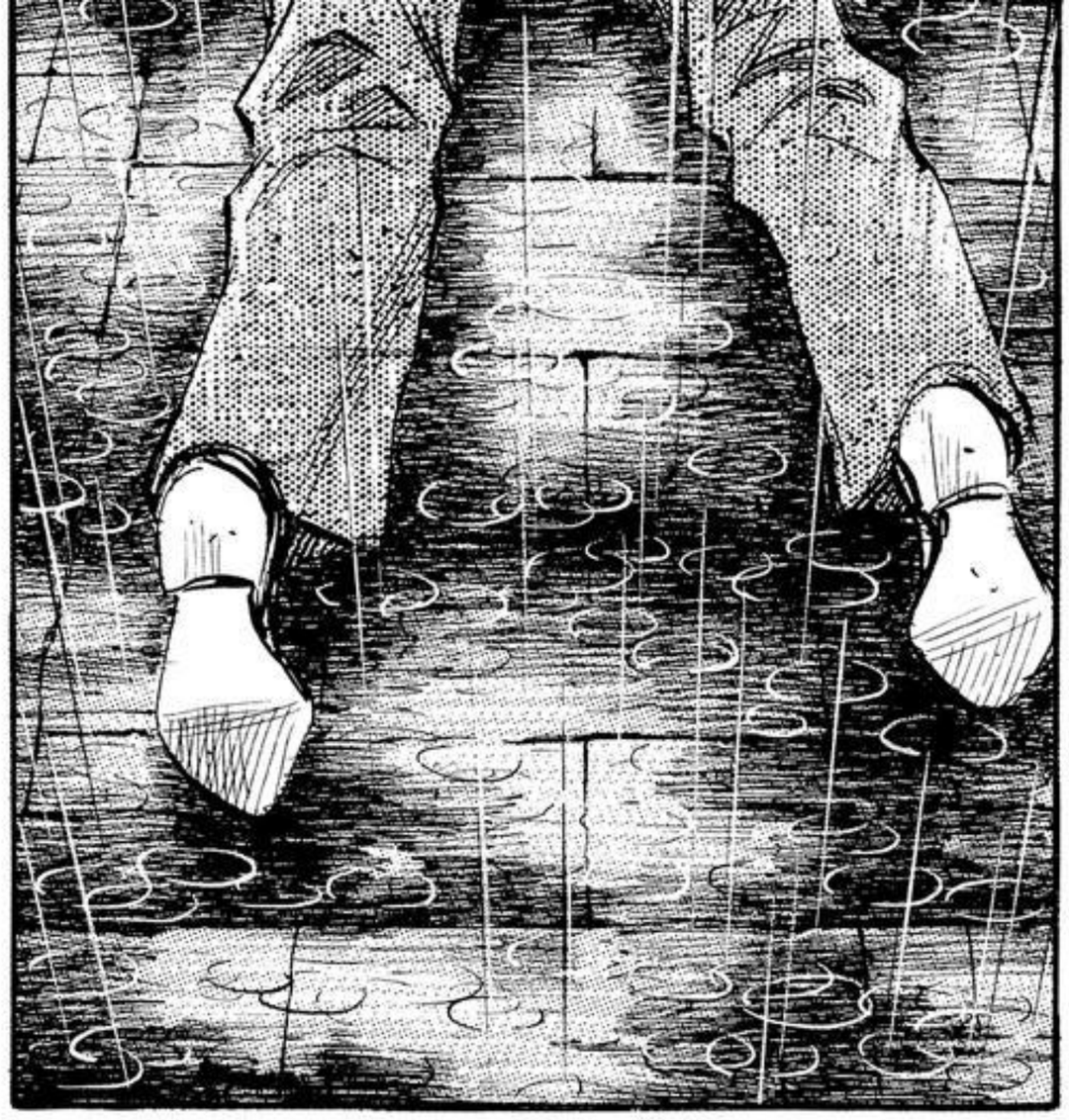

I ONCE HAD A CHILD LIKE YOU...

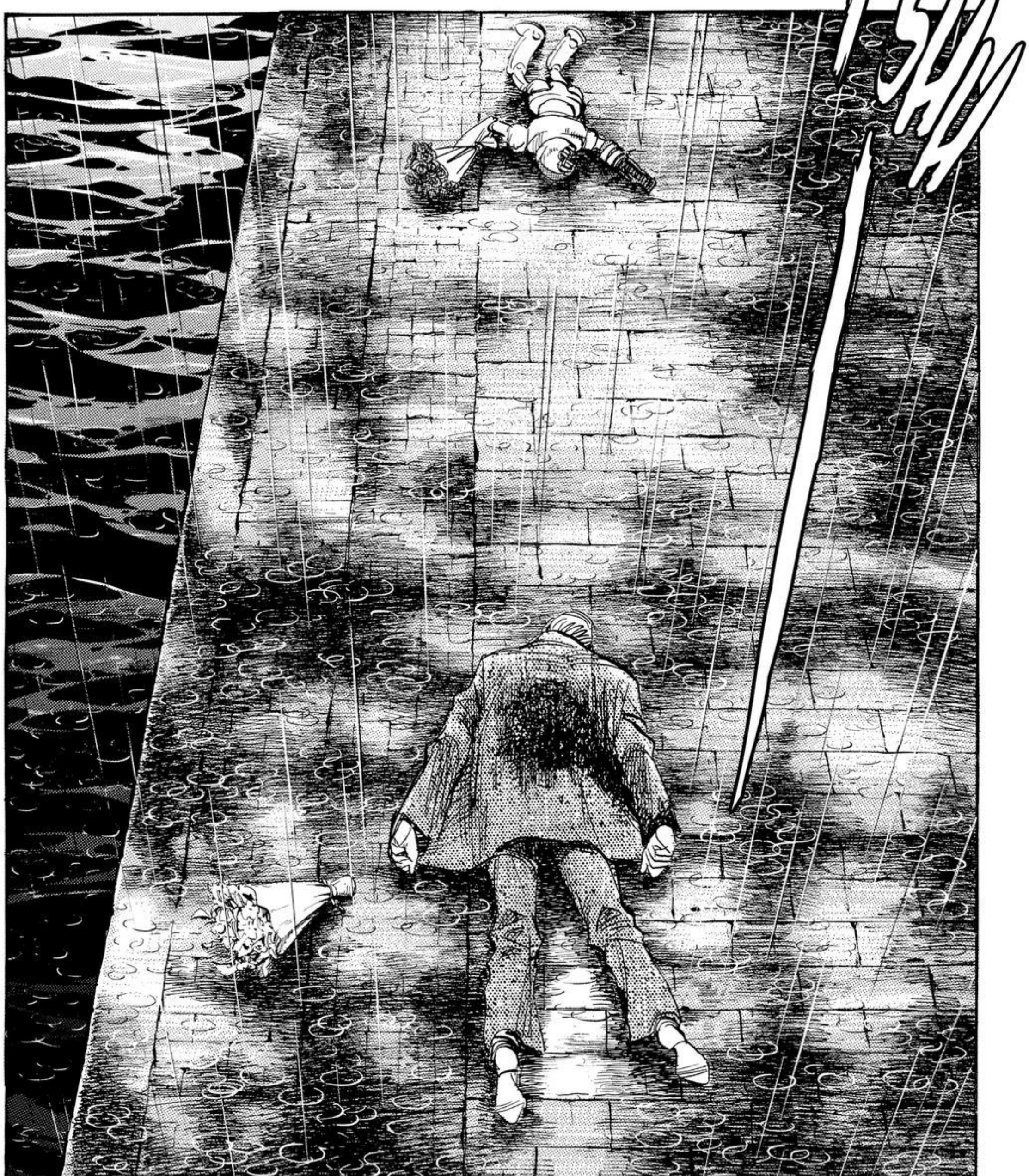
!!


WHAT HAPPENED, ALI?!!
ALI!




KASHANG




ドサッ

FSHHHH
LAST NIGHT, IN AMSTERDAM'S OLD TOWN...
Act 47
REAL TEARS

THE VICTIM HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS INSPECTOR GESICHT, ONE OF THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOTS IN THE WORLD...

A ROBOT DETECTIVE FROM EUROPOL WAS MURDERED.

INSPECTOR GESICHT HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN AN ATTACK WITH A SIMILAR WEAPON JUST A FEW WEEKS EARLIER...

A SMALL D-CLASS ROBOT, SPECIALLY OUTFITTED WITH A CLUSTER CANNON ARM, WAS FOUND DEACTIVATED NEARBY.

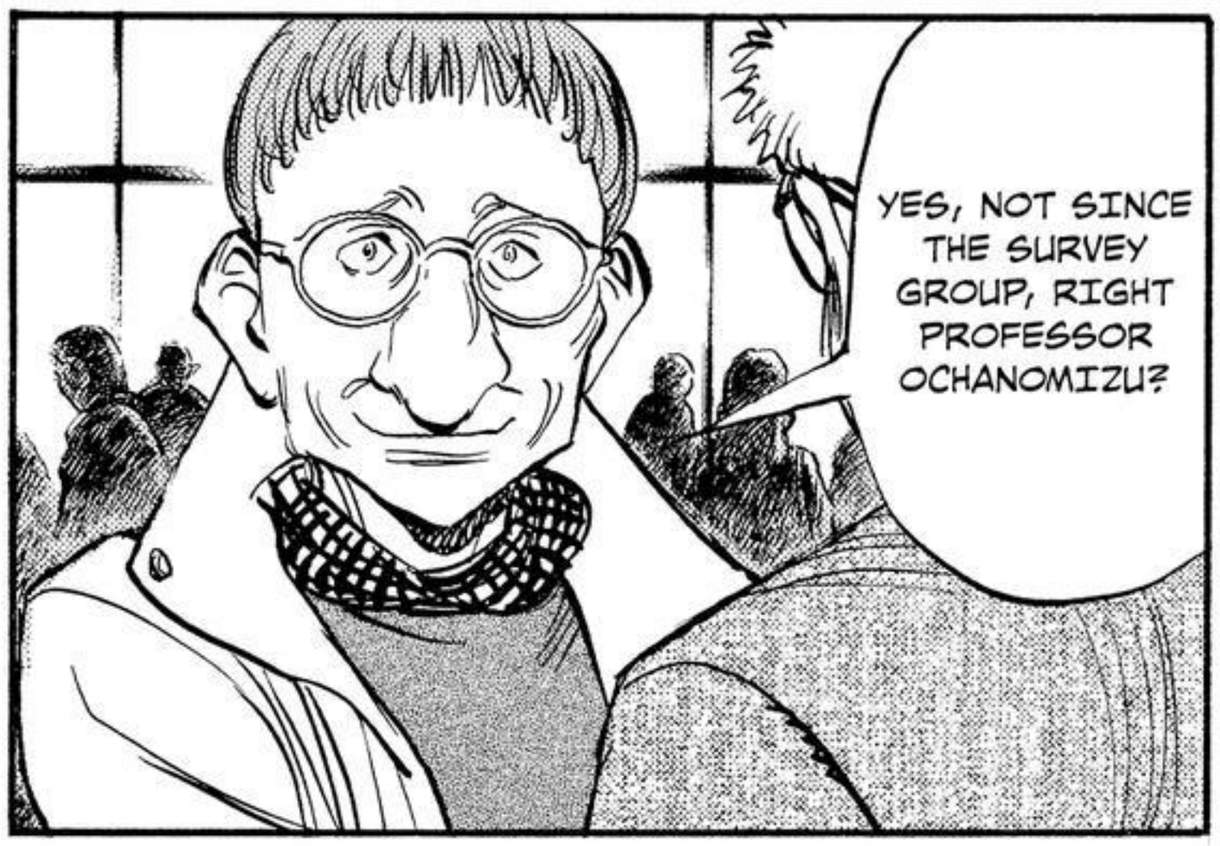
ALTHOUGH HIS BODY WAS ARMORED WITH ZERONIUM ALLOY, SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST METAL KNOWN, IT APPEARS HE HAD SUFFERED SERIOUS METAL FATIGUE...

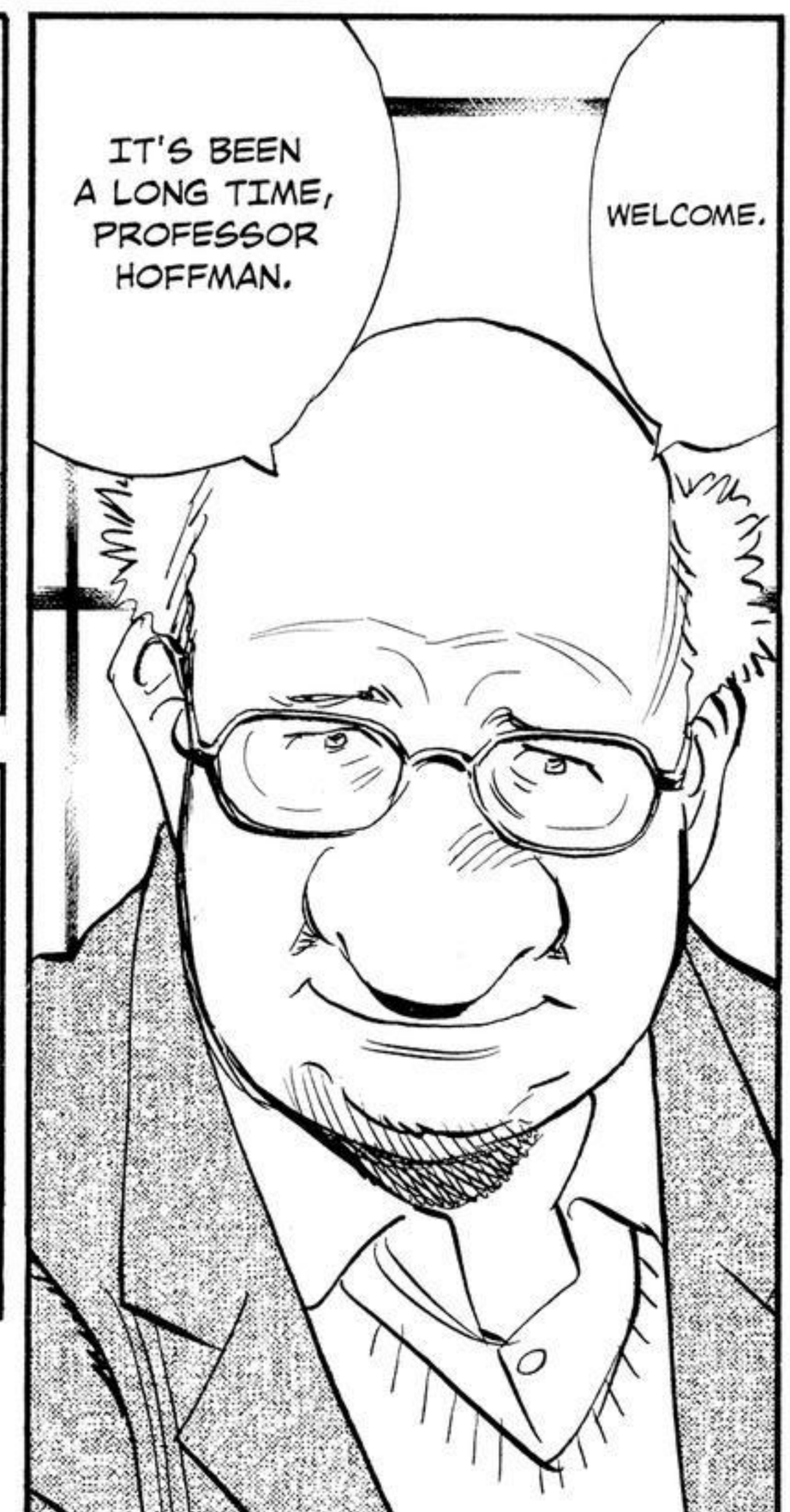
HE HAD ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN A HEATED BATTLE JUST HOURS BEFORE HIS DEATH.

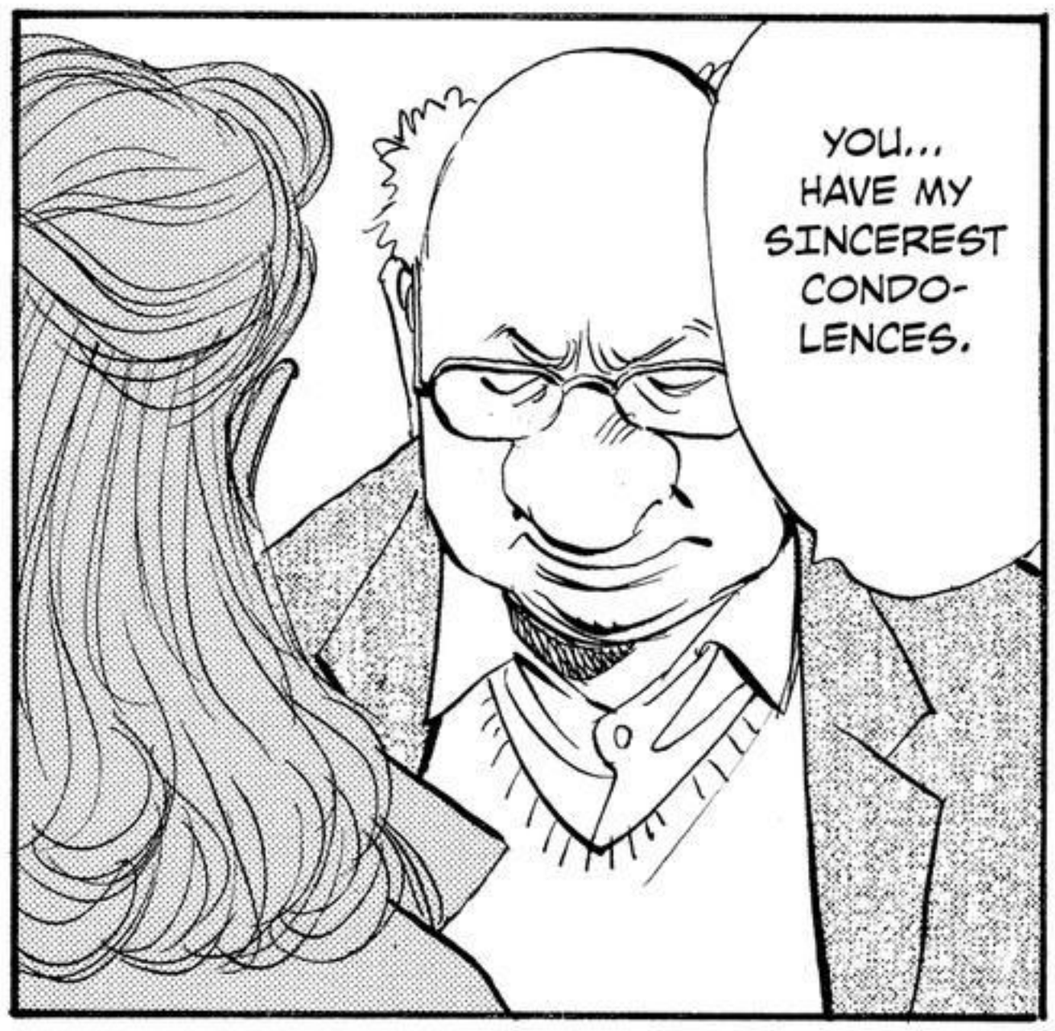
WE REPEAT THIS BREAKING NEWS.

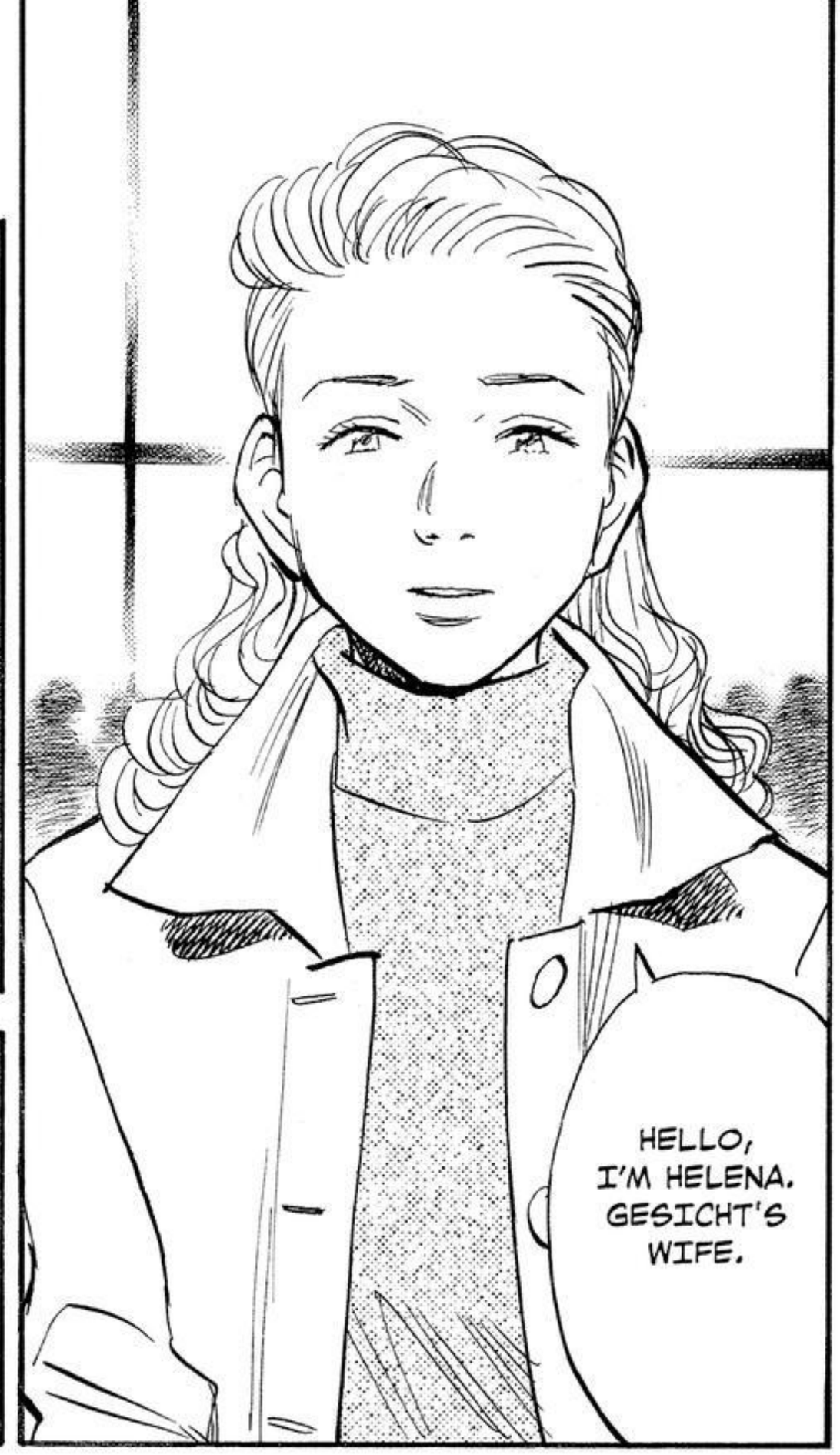
LAST NIGHT, IN AMSTERDAM'S OLD TOWN...

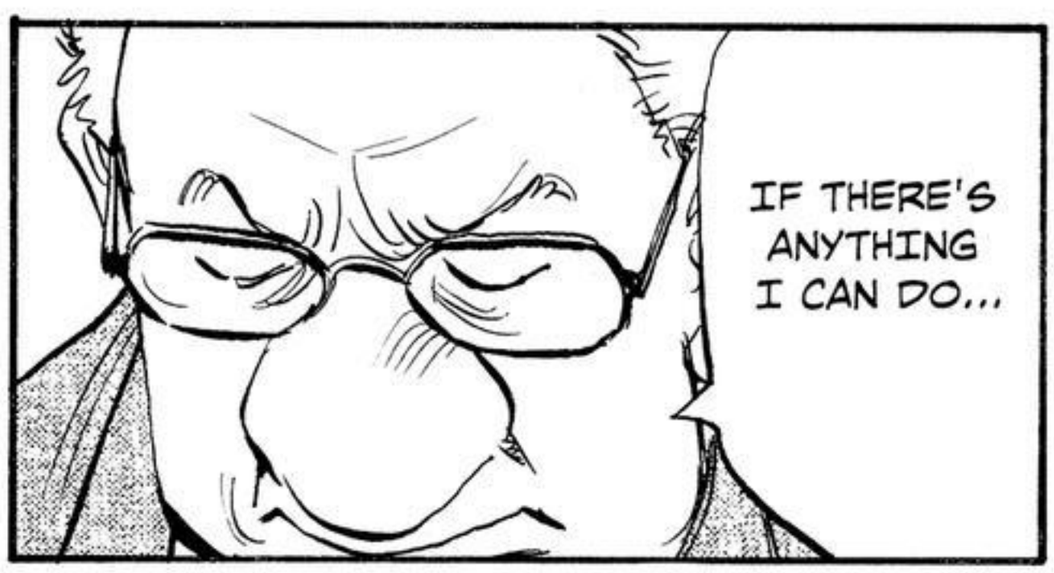
TWO MONTHS LATER,
TOKYO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

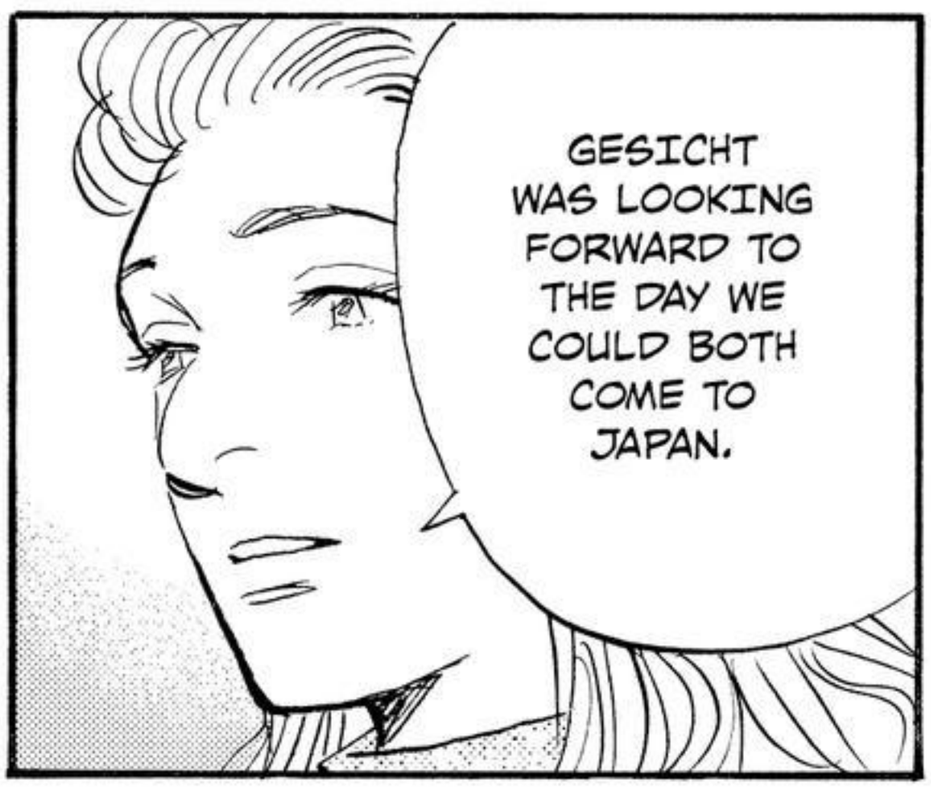


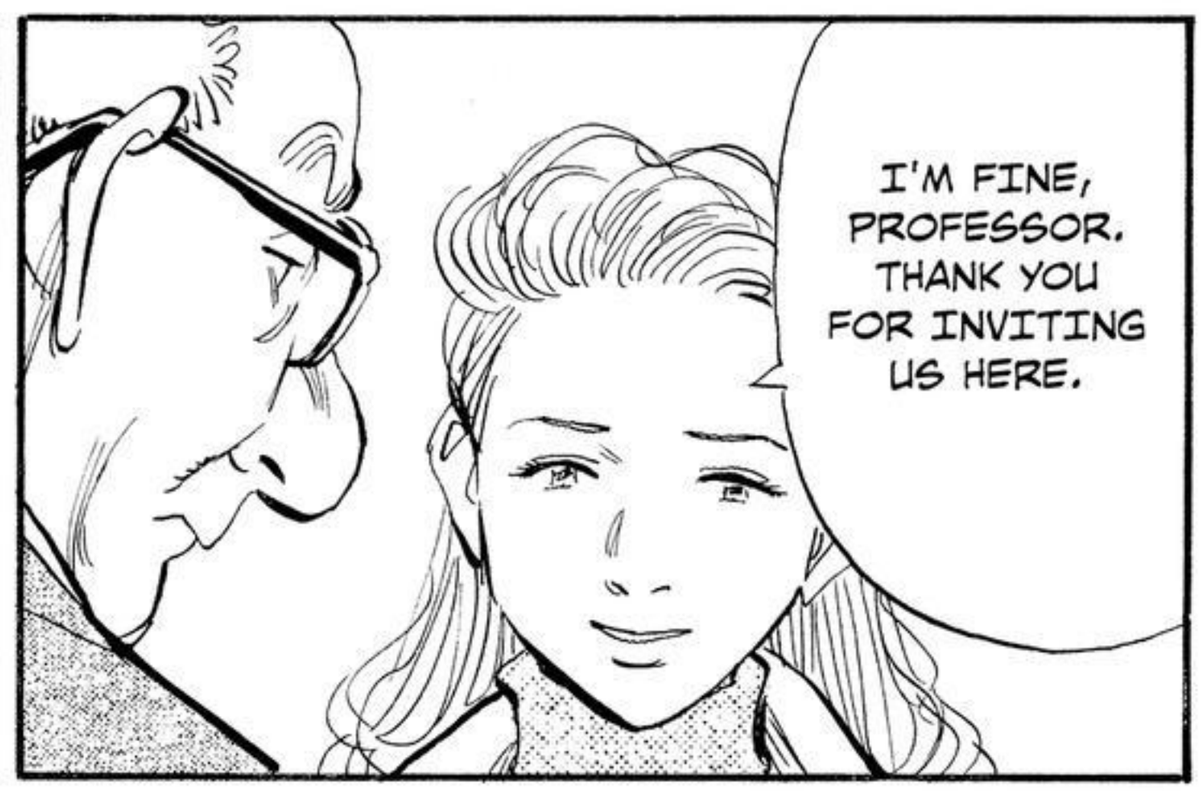



YOU... HAVE MY SINCEREST CONDO-LENCES.

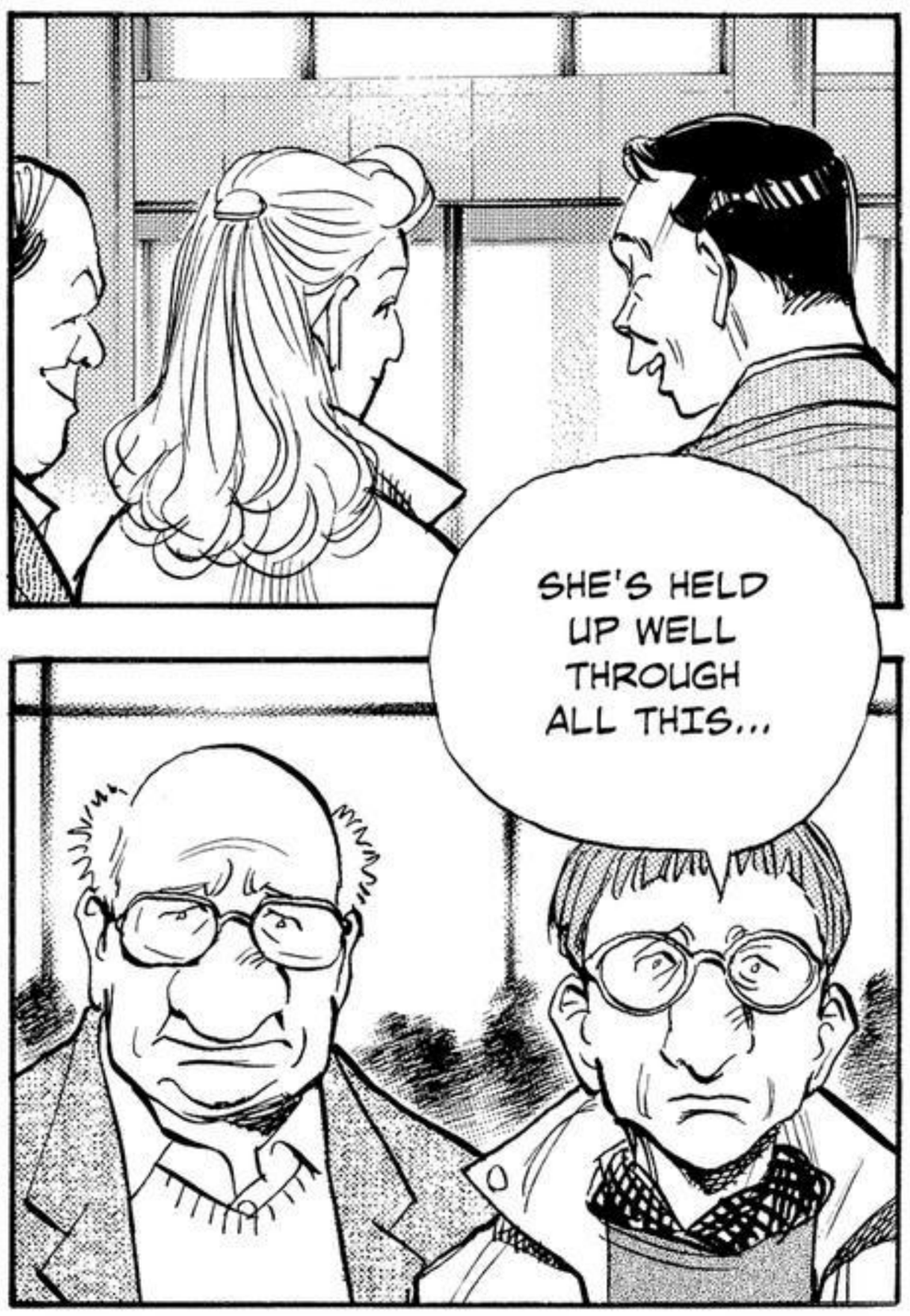

HELLO, I'M HELENA. GESICHT'S WIFE.

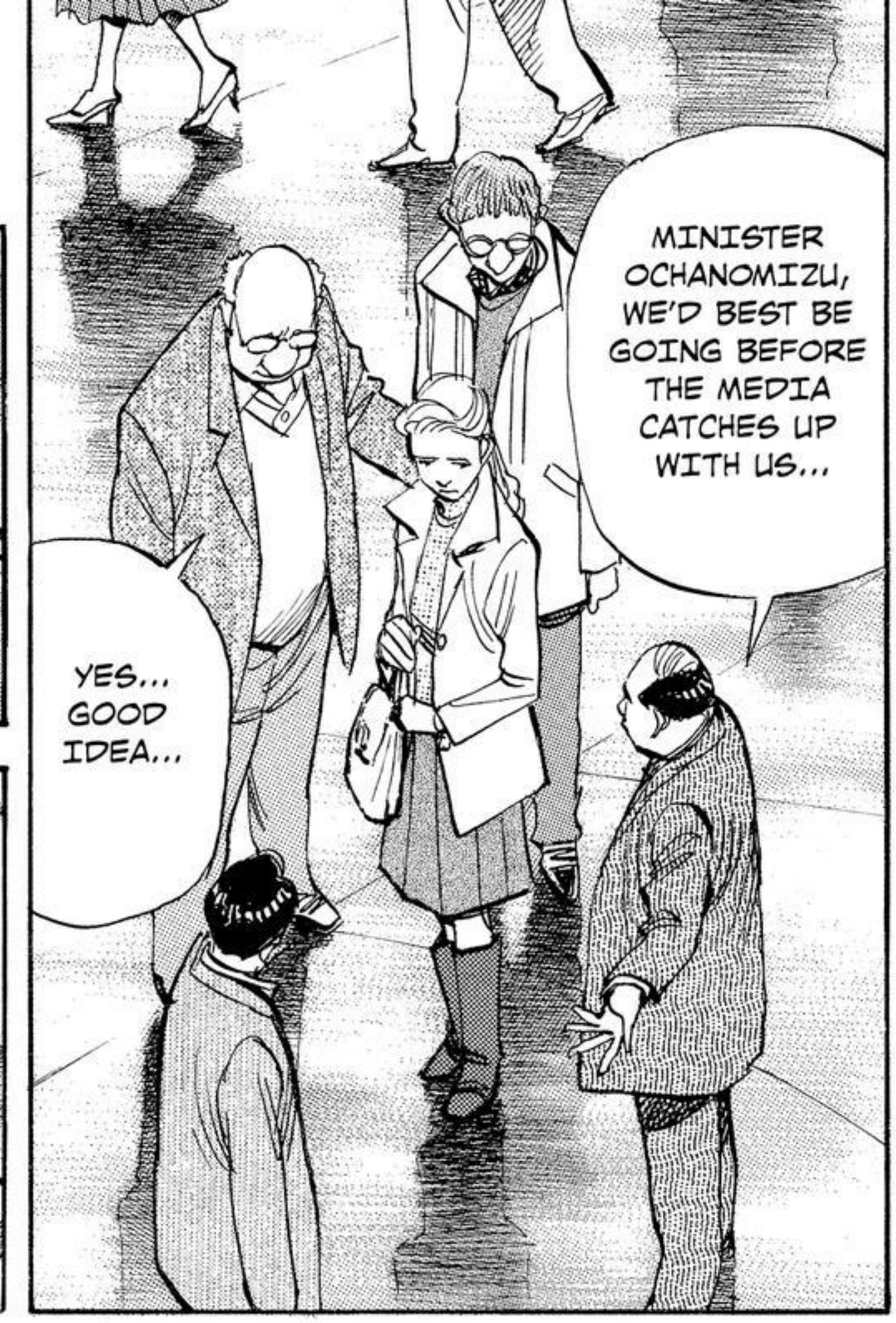

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...


GESICHT WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WE COULD BOTH COME TO JAPAN.

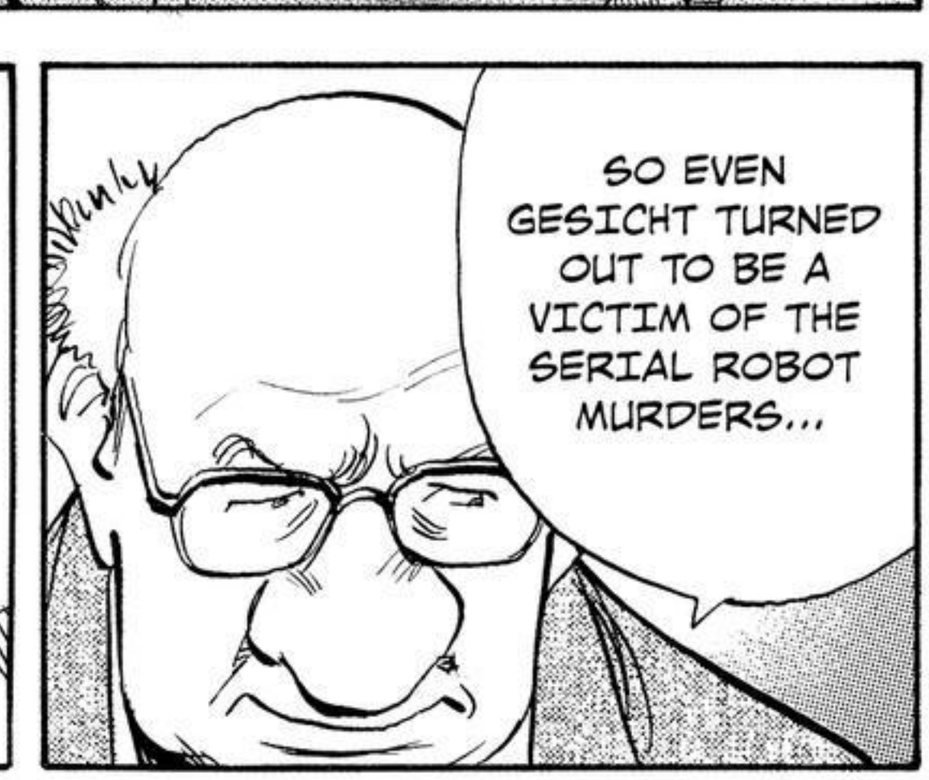

I'M FINE, PROFESSOR. THANK YOU FOR INVITING US HERE.

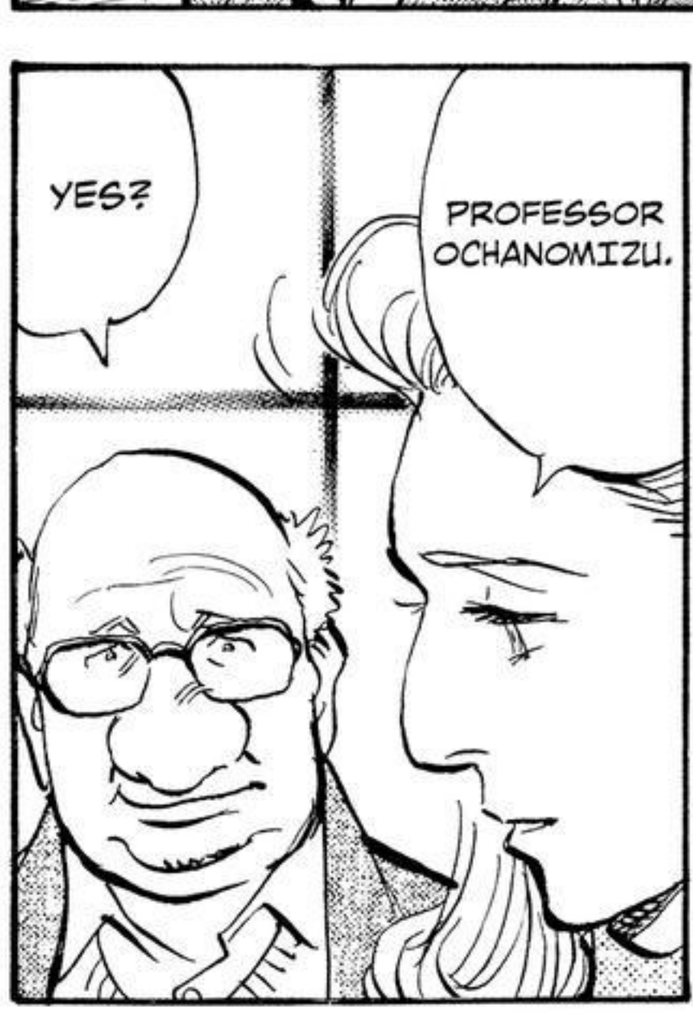
...
HE'D MADE RESERVATIONS FOR THE TRIP THE DAY HE DIED...


SHE'S HELD UP WELL THROUGH ALL THIS...


MINISTER OCHANOMIZU, WE'D BEST BE GOING BEFORE THE MEDIA CATCHES UP WITH US...
YES... GOOD IDEA...

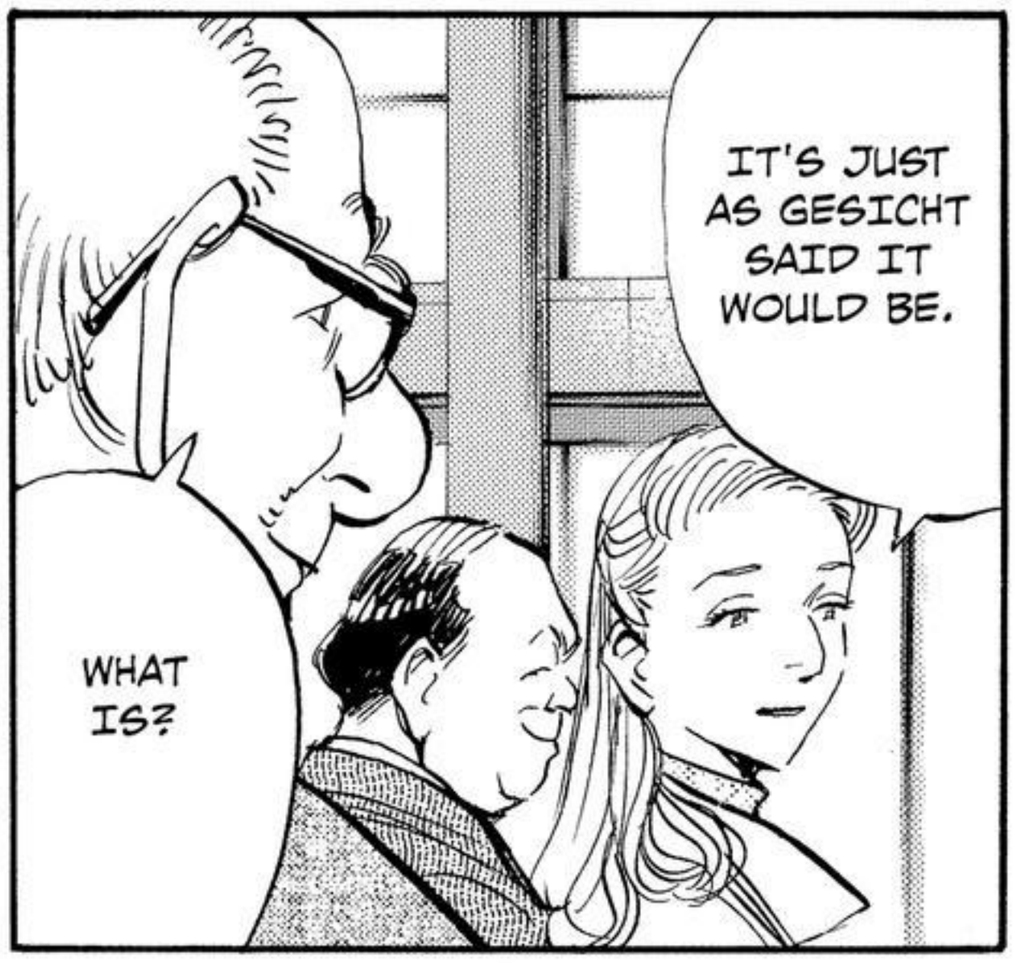
YES... AND EUROPOL'S FINDING IT HARD TO COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION.

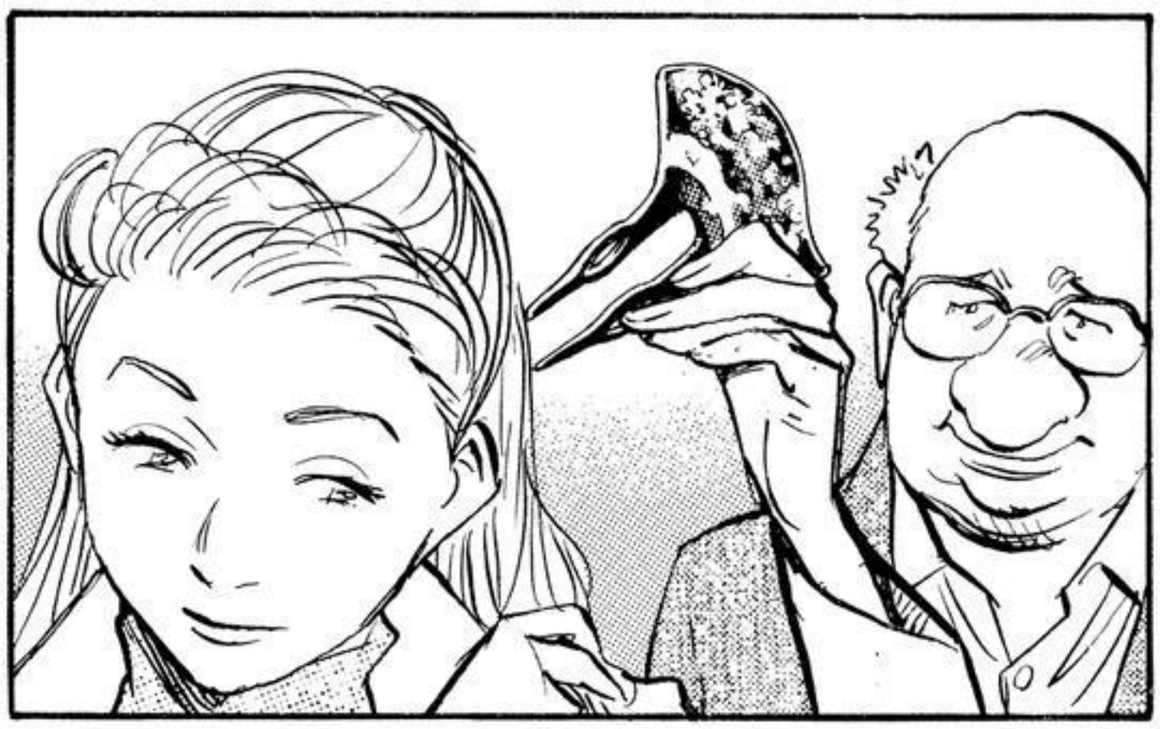

SO EVEN GESICHT TURNED OUT TO BE A VICTIM OF THE SERIAL ROBOT MURDERS...


YES?
PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU.

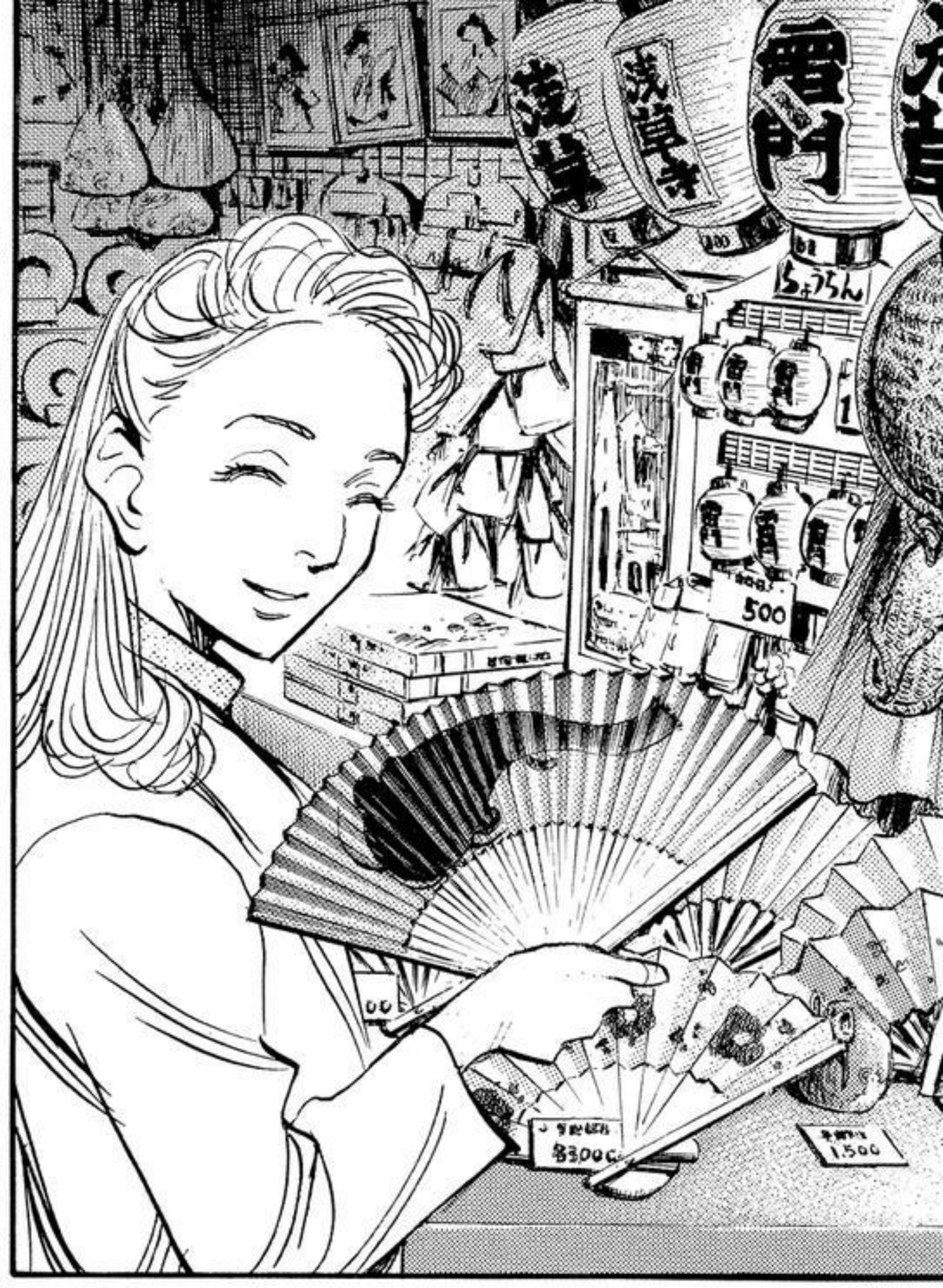
OUR LIVES MAY ALSO STILL BE IN DANGER, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...

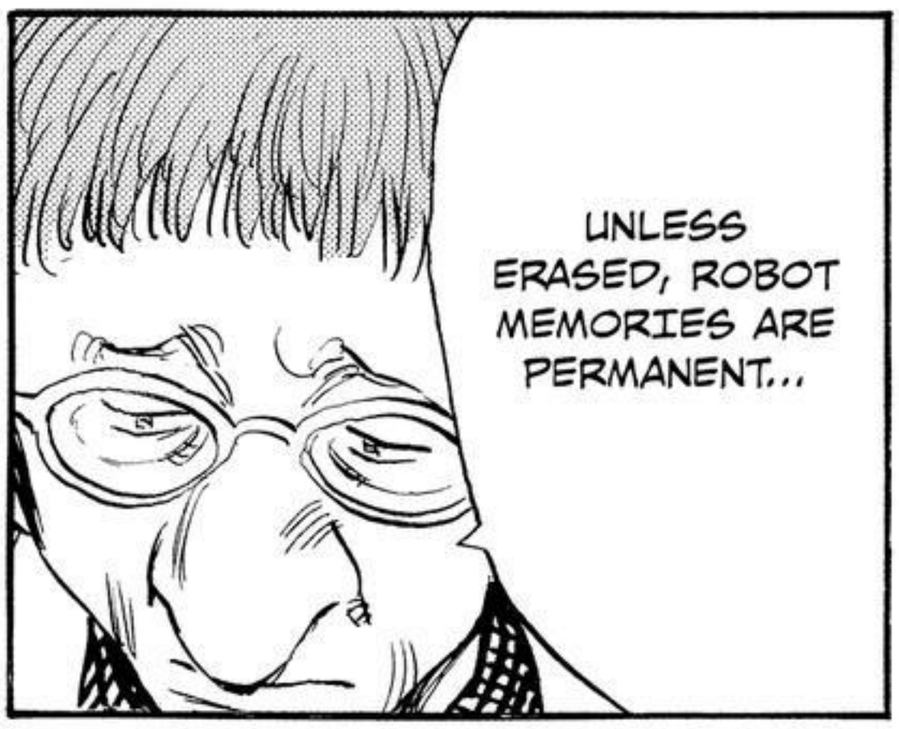
HE SAID THAT THE AIR IN JAPAN CONTAINS A SLIGHT HINT OF SOY SAUCE.

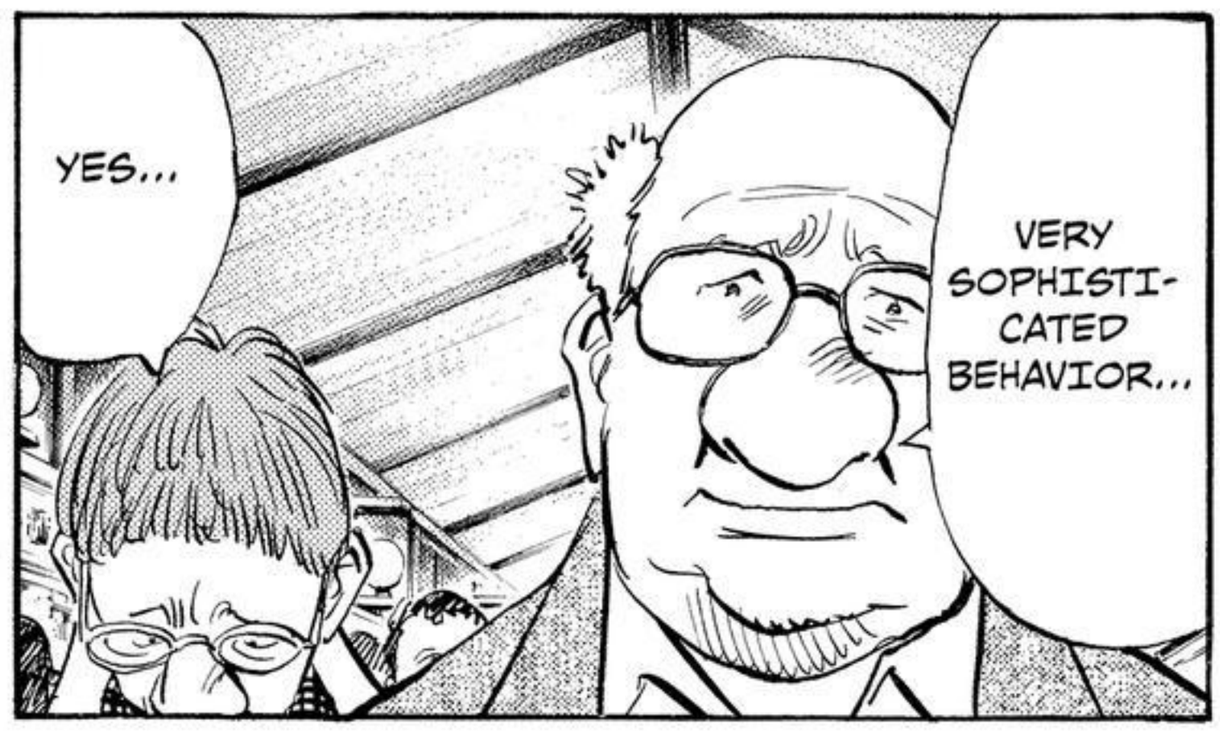


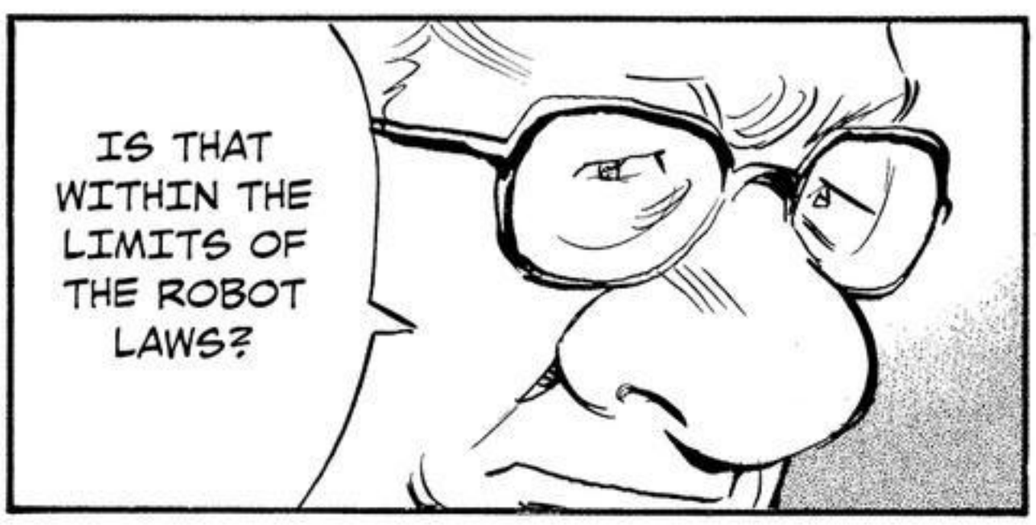


SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE SHE'S ENJOYING HERSELF...




UNLESS ERASED, ROBOT MEMORIES ARE PERMANENT...


YES...
VERY SOPHISTI-CATED BEHAVIOR...


IS THAT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE ROBOT LAWS?

NO. IT WAS GROSSLY ILLEGAL.

EUROPOL EVIDENTLY TAMPERED WITH GESICHT'S MEMORY.

I TRIED TO LOOK INTO IT, BUT I NEVER GOT TO THE TRUTH.

THAT'S NOT GOOD...

...

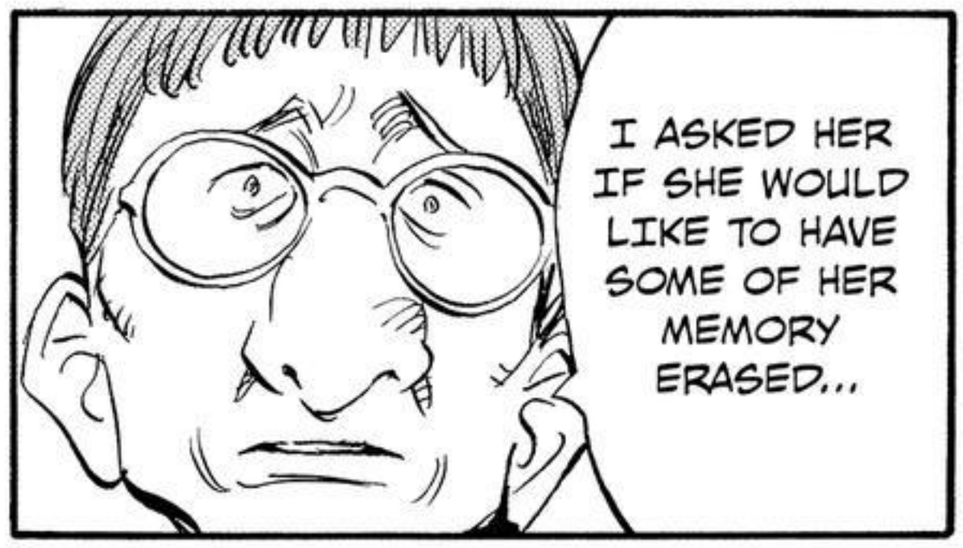
WE SIMPLY CAN'T ALLOW HUMANS TO TAMPER WITH A ROBOT'S MEMORY JUST BECAUSE IT SUITS THEM...!!

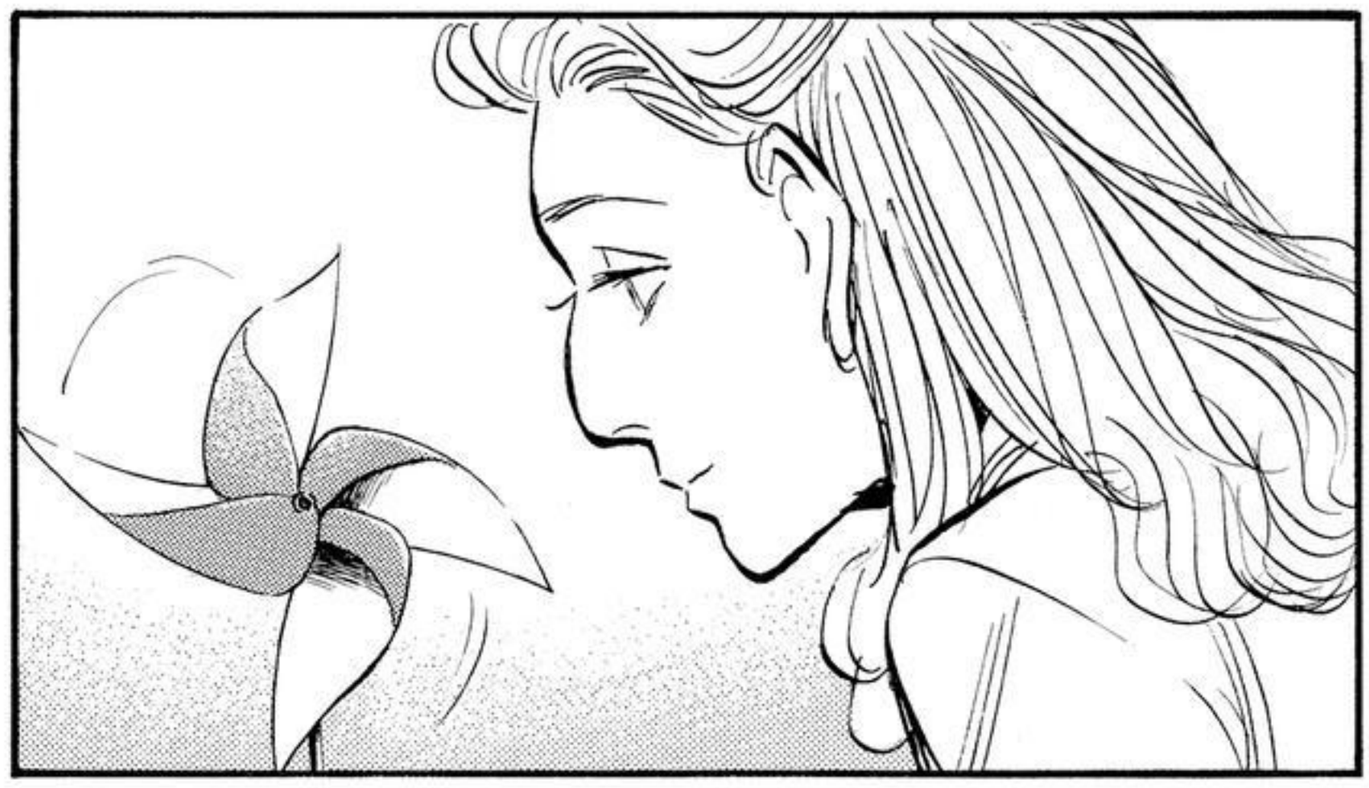
BUT RIGHT NOW...

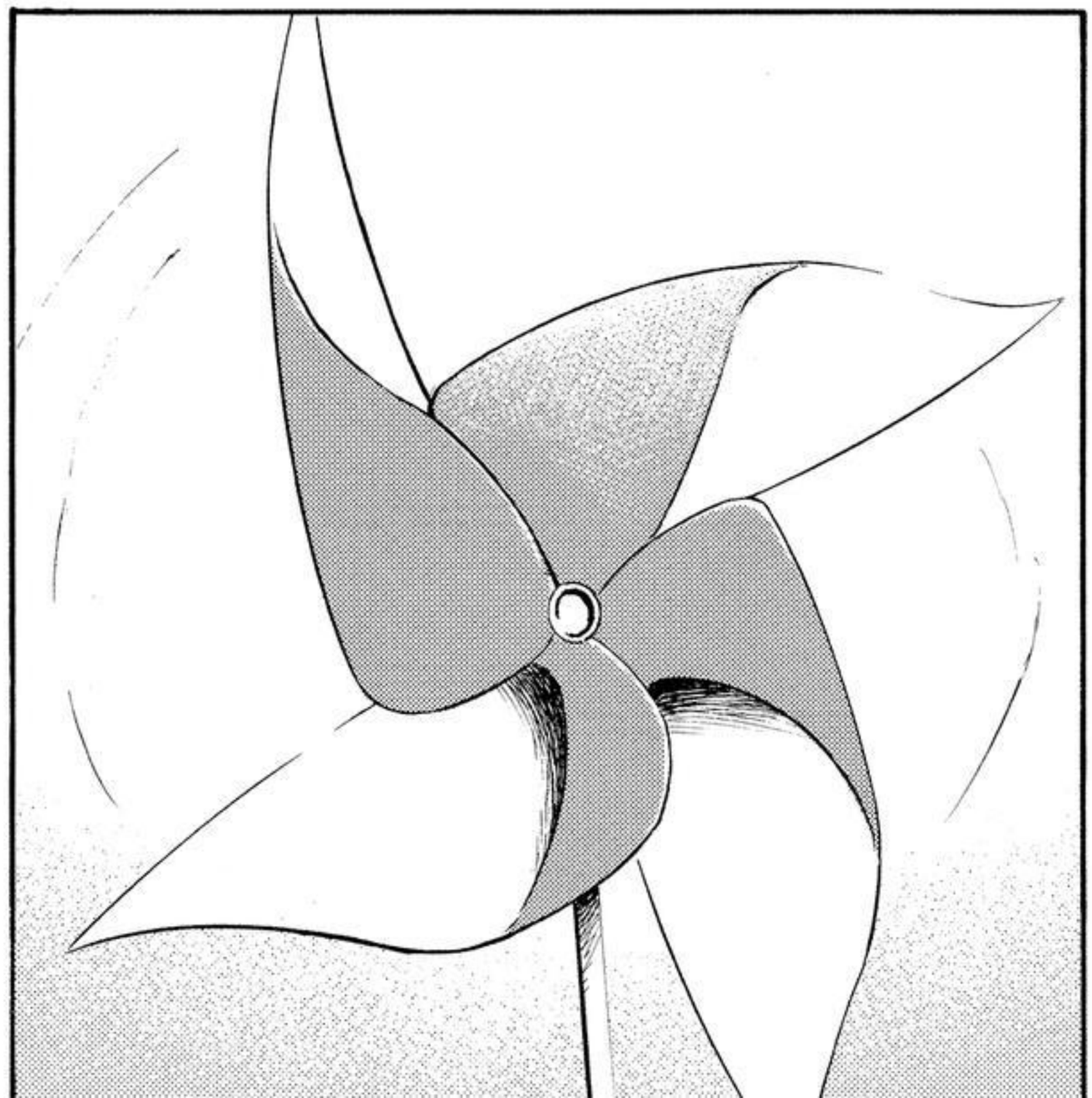
I ACTUALLY ASKED HER, YOU KNOW...

I WISH I COULD ERASE SOME OF HER MEMORIES...

SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE A SINGLE MEMORY OF HIM.

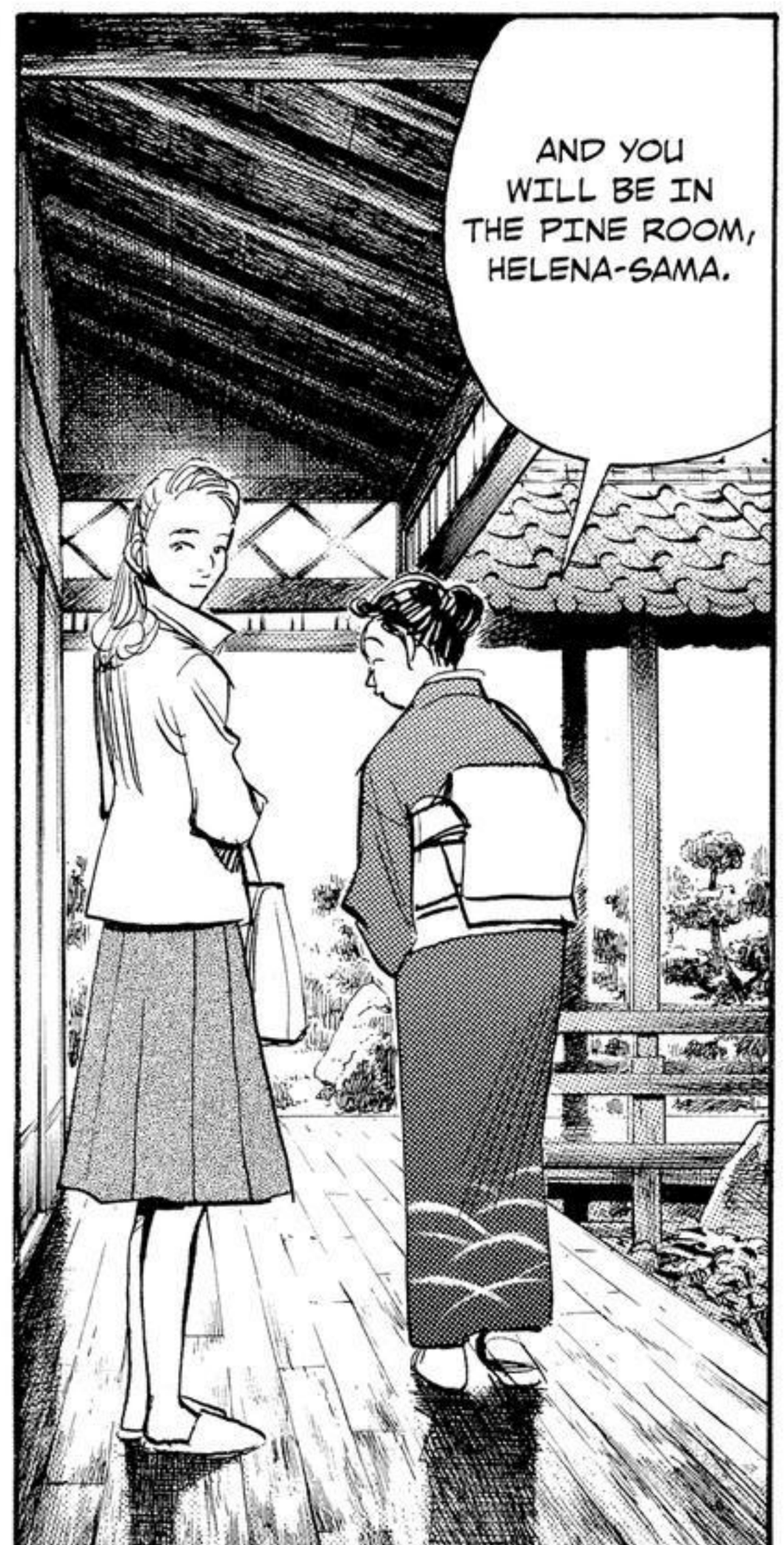


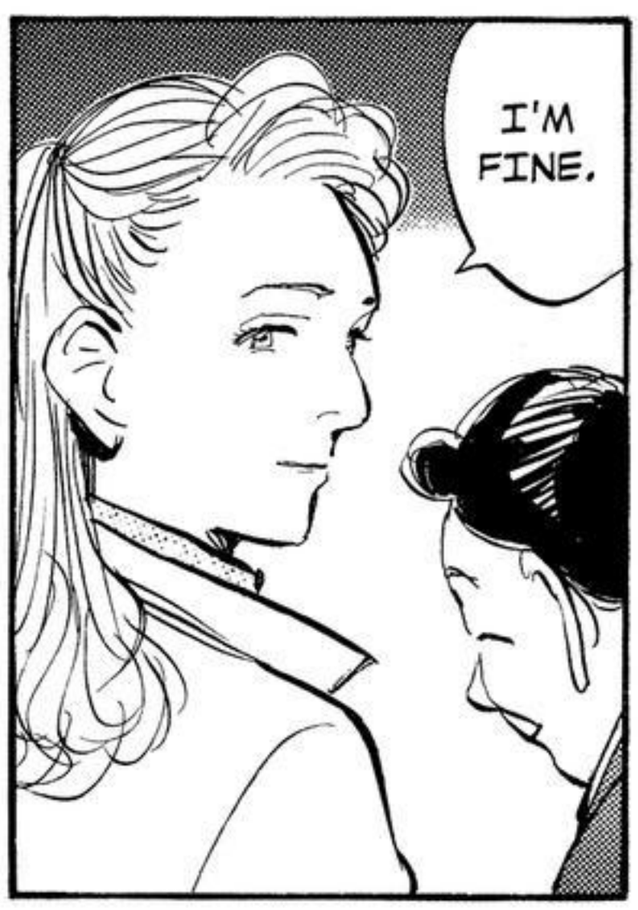




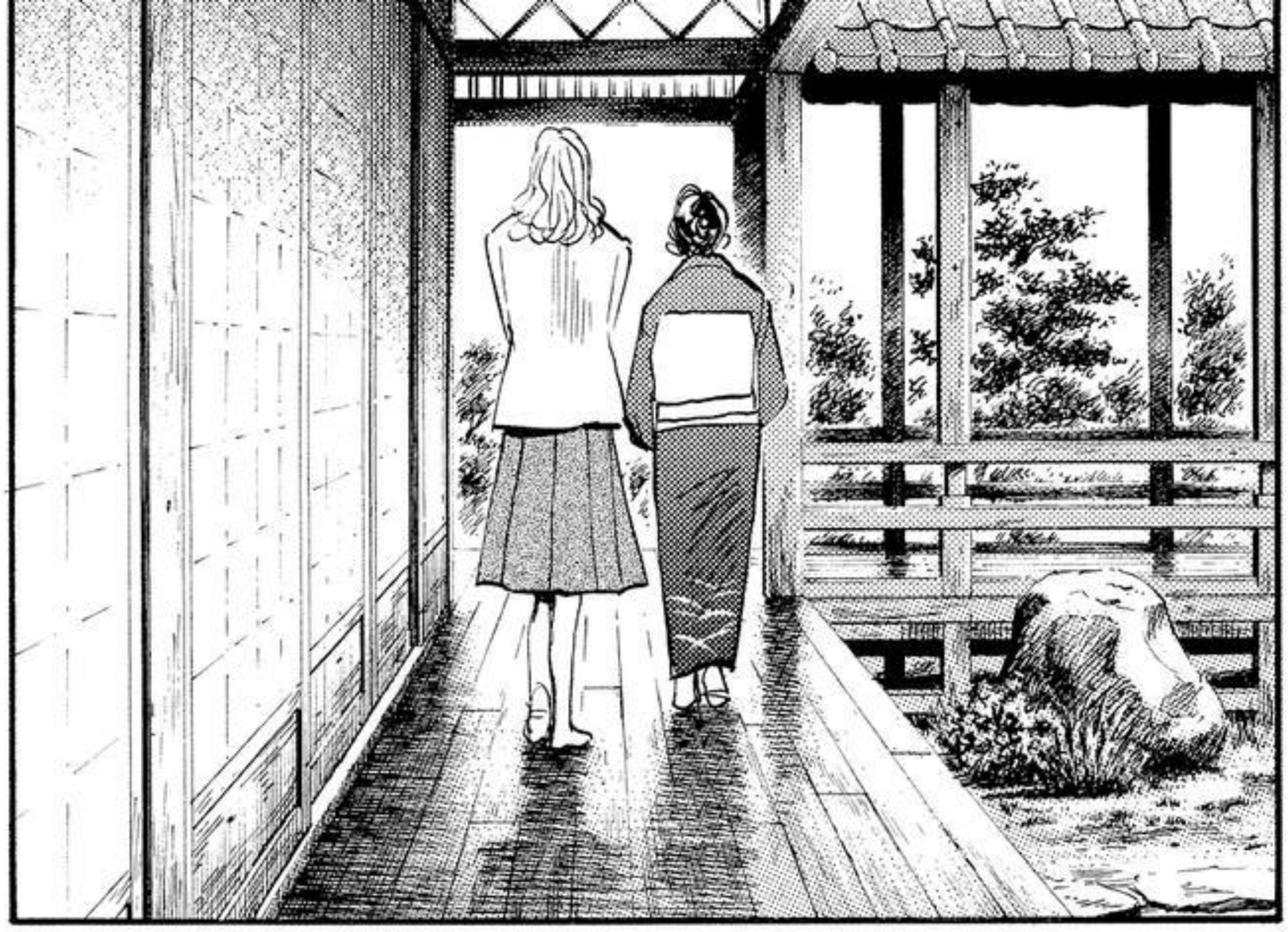
THIS IS YOUR ROOM, HOFFMAN-SAMA, THE MAPLE ROOM.

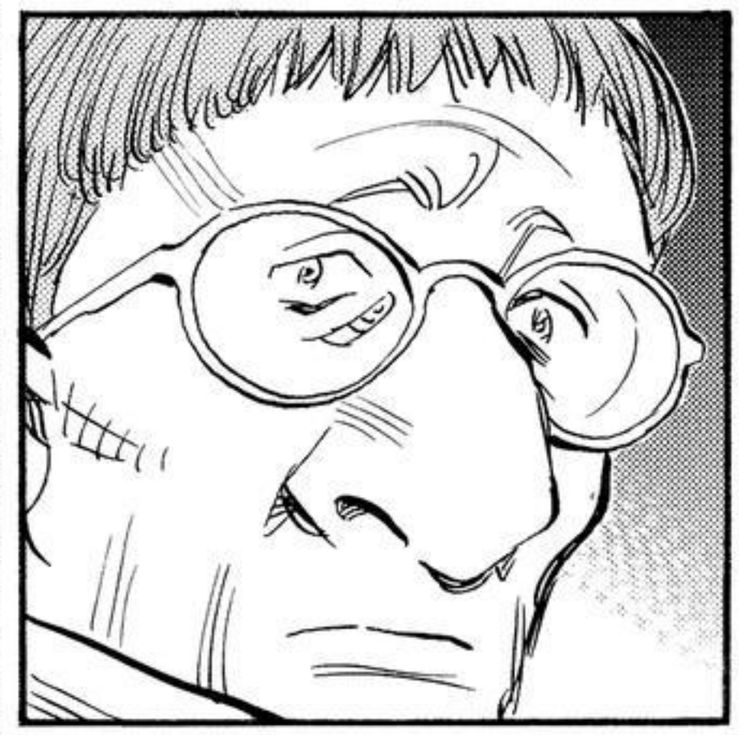
WHY, THAT'S THE SAME ROOM GESICHT RESERVED.

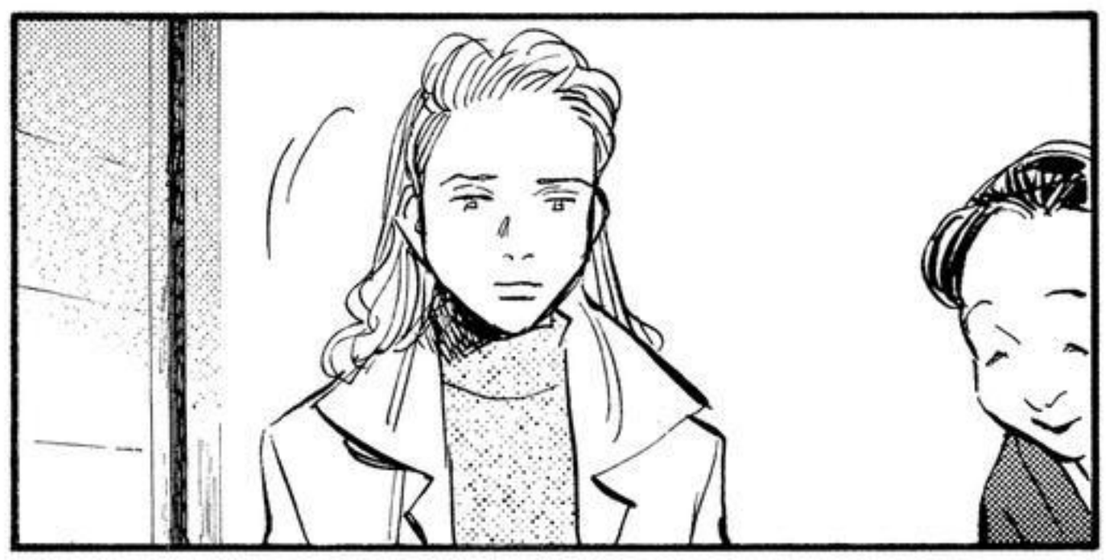

AND YOU WILL BE IN THE PINE ROOM, HELENA-SAMA.

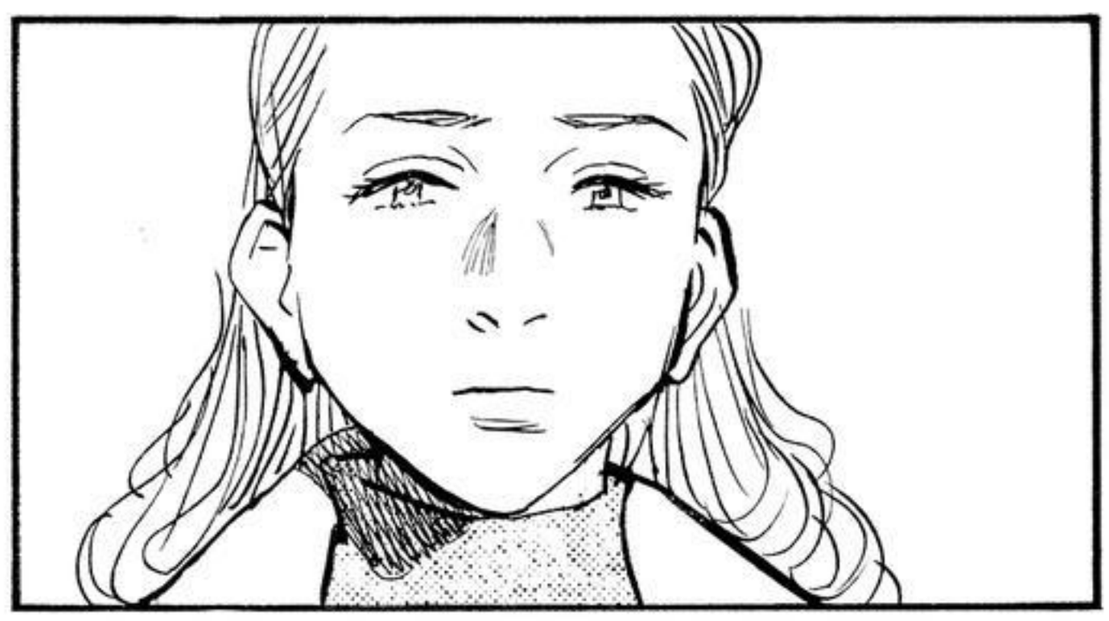

I'M FINE.

ARE YOU OKAY, HELENA?



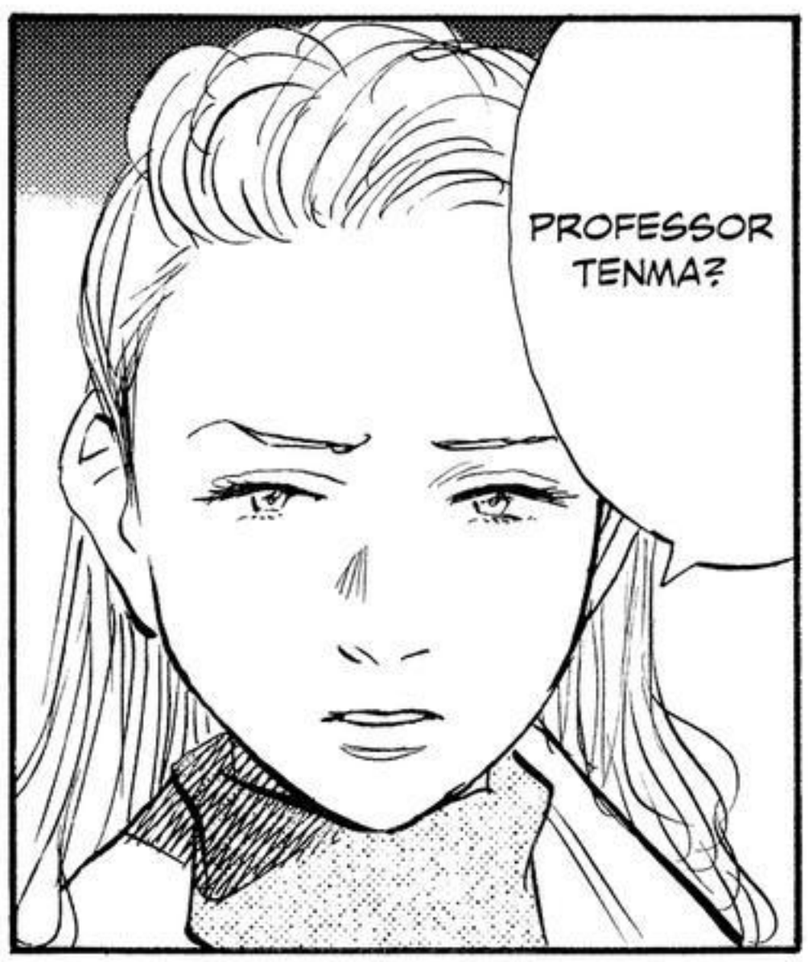






RIGHT AROUND THIS CORNER, MADAM...

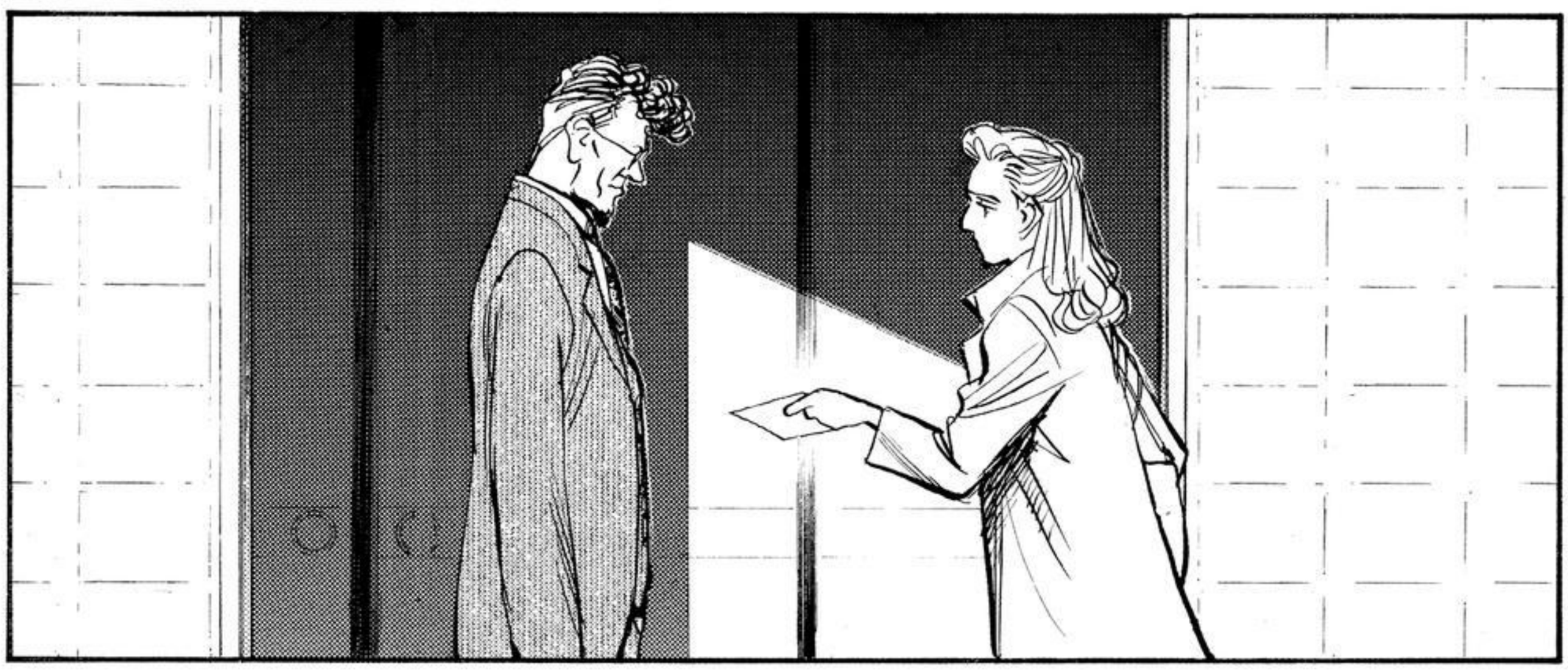
I CAN FIND MY OWN WAY FROM HERE.
YES, MADAM...


PROFESSOR TENMA?

THAT'S RIGHT...

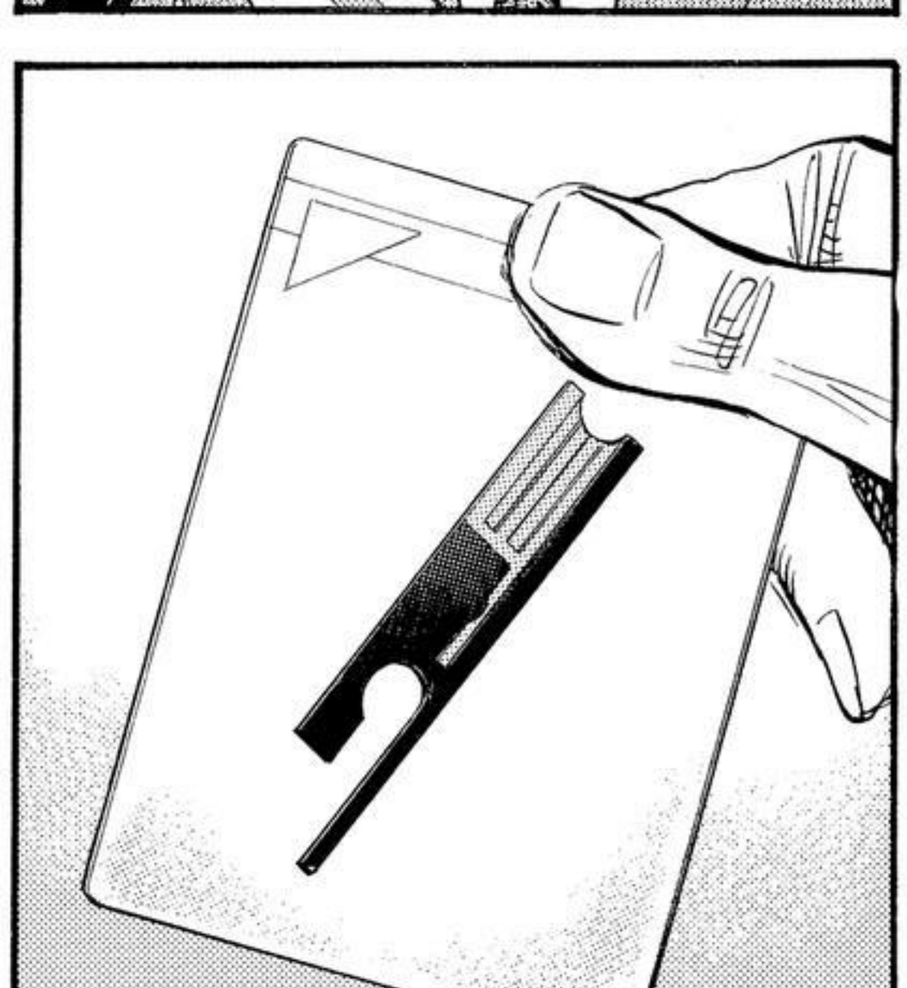
YES.

DO YOU HAVE IT?

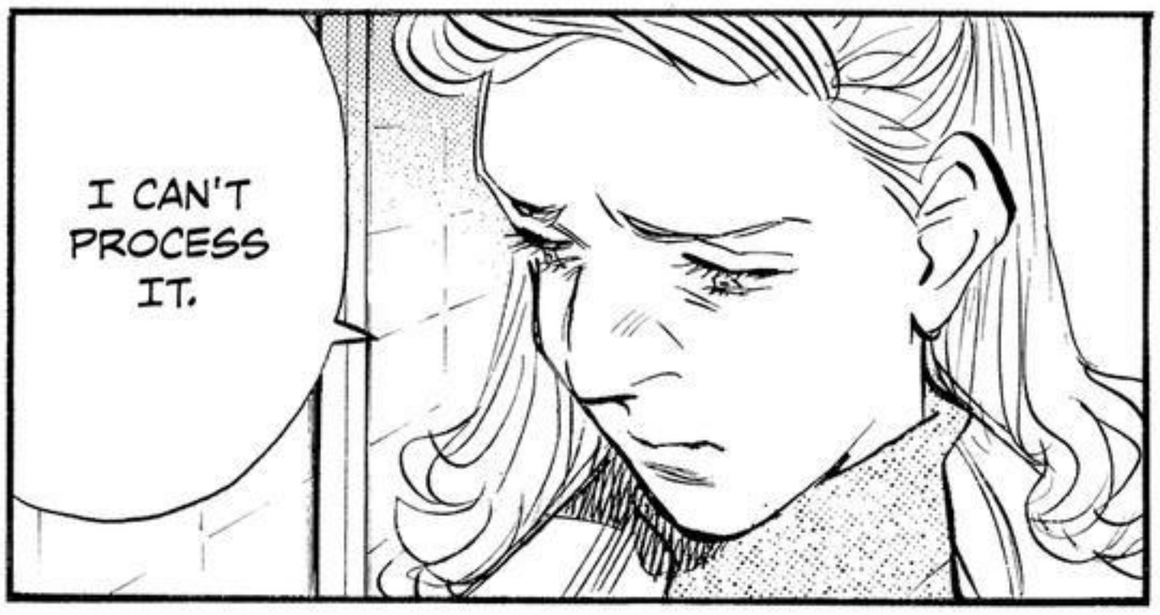


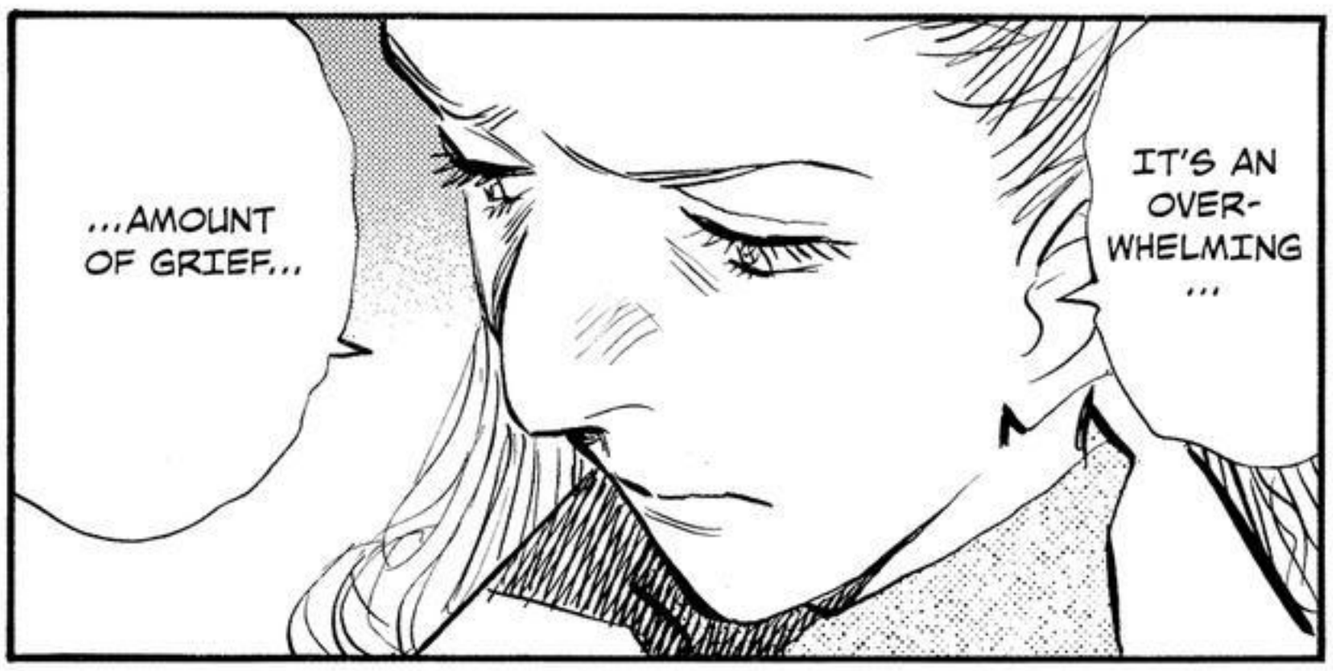
OF COURSE.

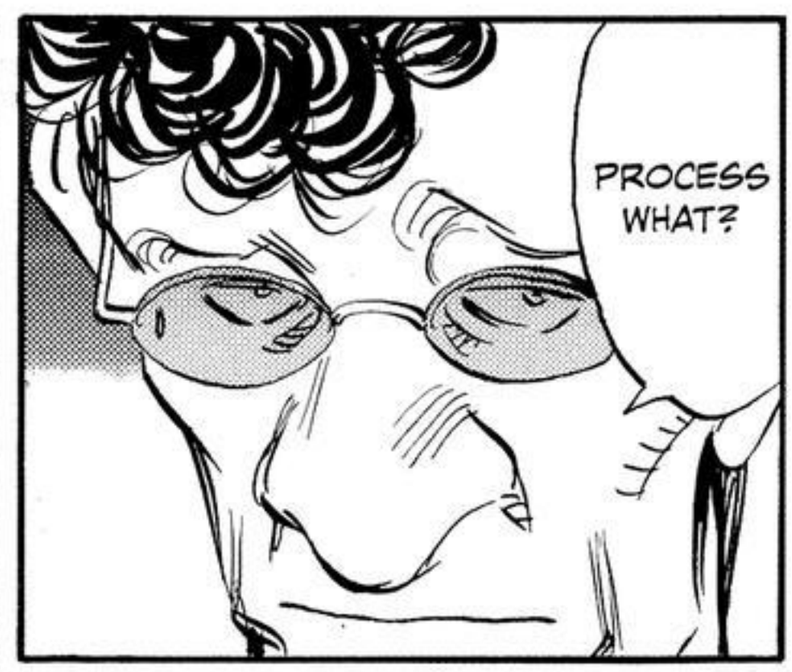
WILL THIS HELP CAPTURE THE CRIMINAL?



WHAT'S THE MATTER, HELENA?

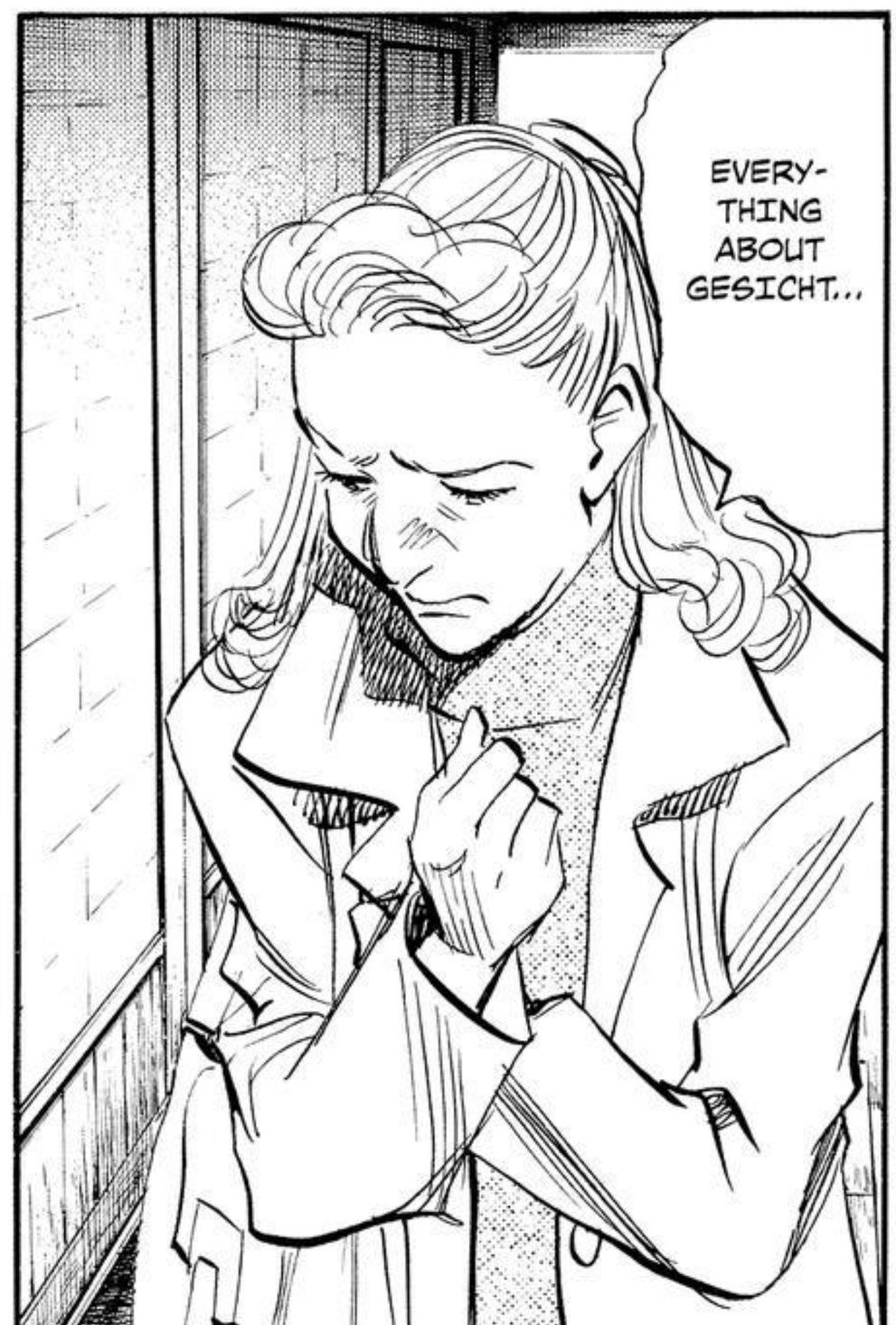

I CAN'T PROCESS IT.

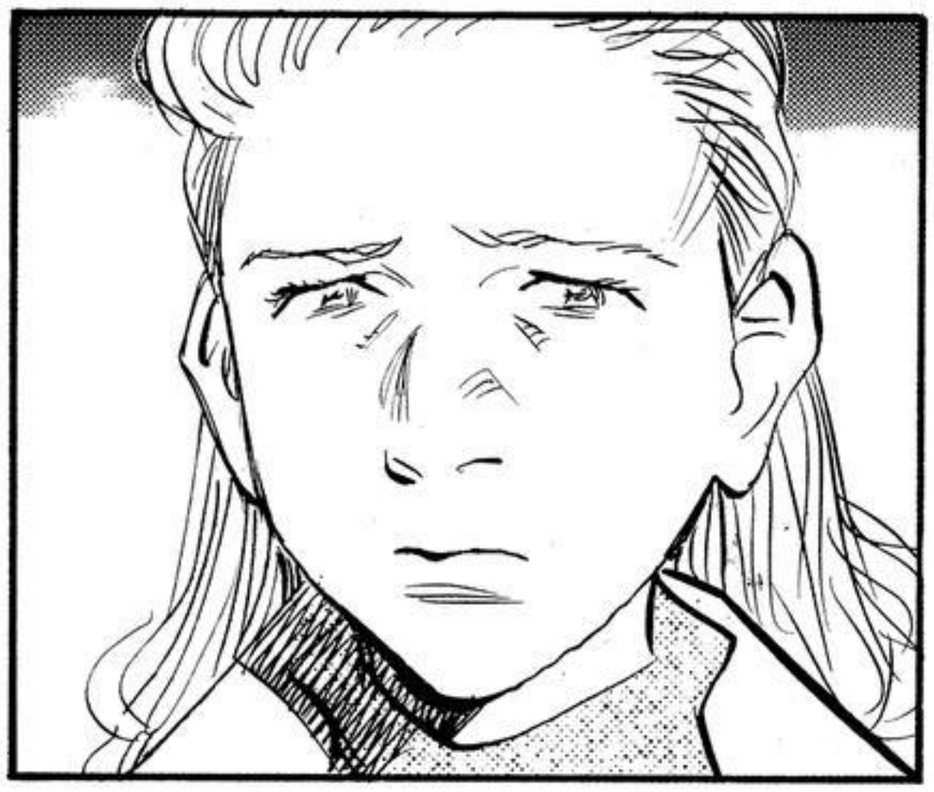

...AMOUNT OF GRIEF...
IT'S AN OVER-WHELMING ...


PROCESS WHAT?

KEEPS GETTING CLEARER AND CLEARER...

HELENA...
W... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

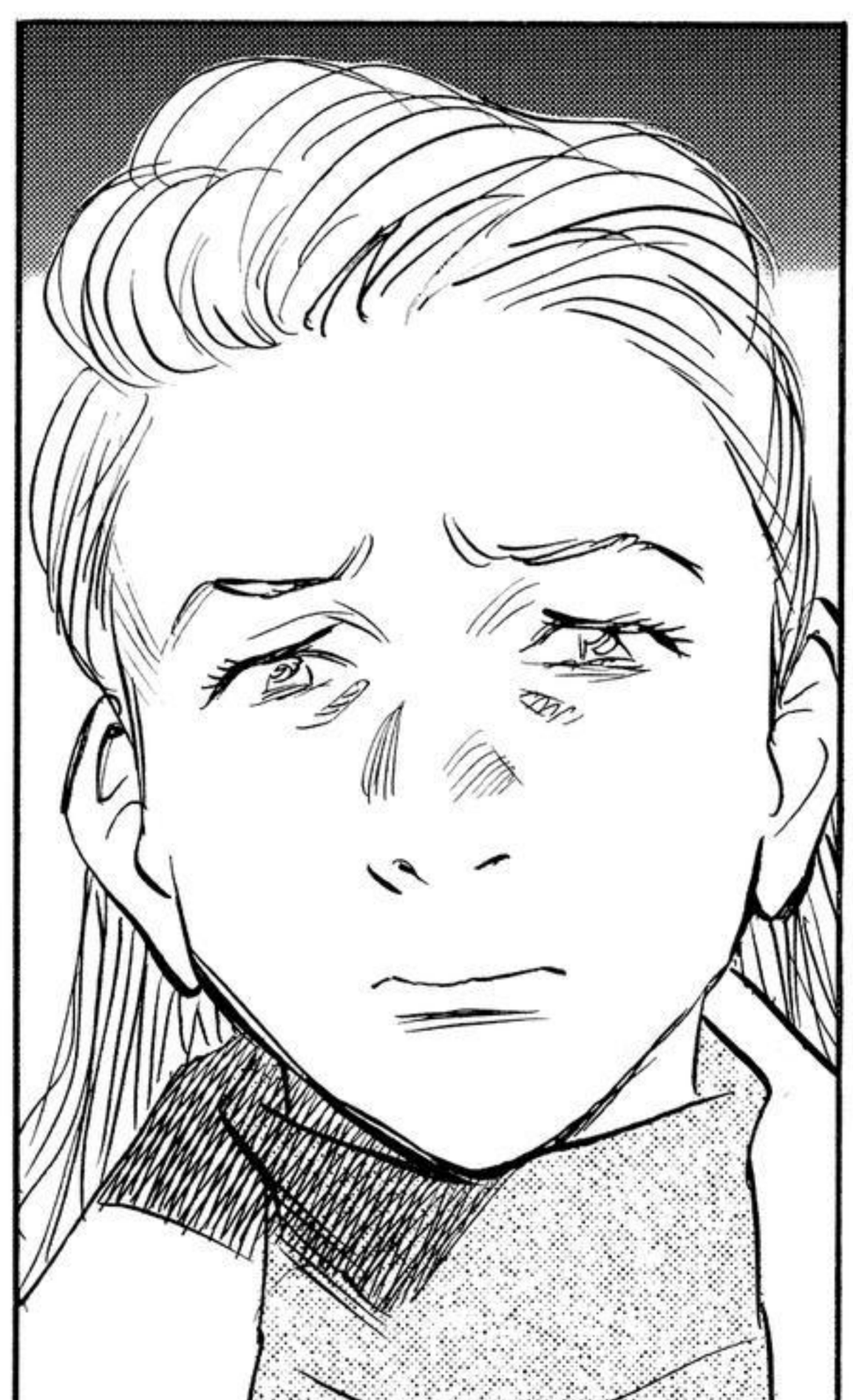

EVERY-THING ABOUT GESICHT...

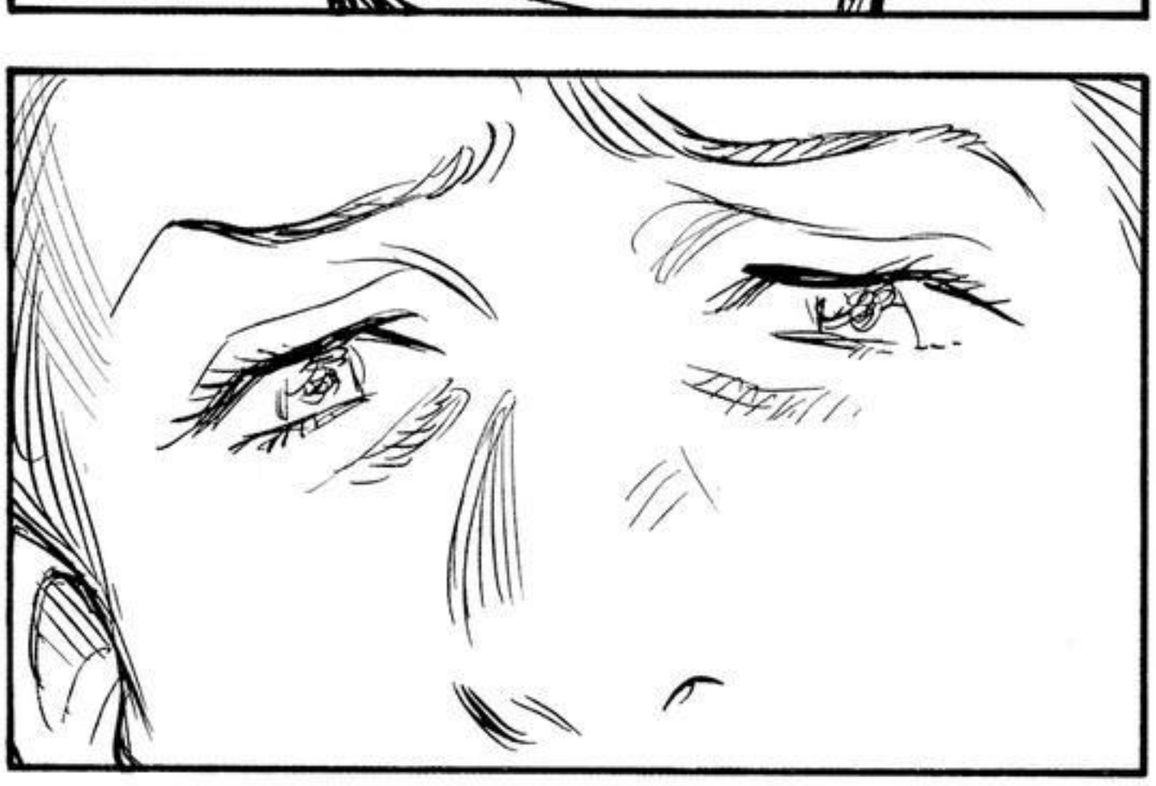


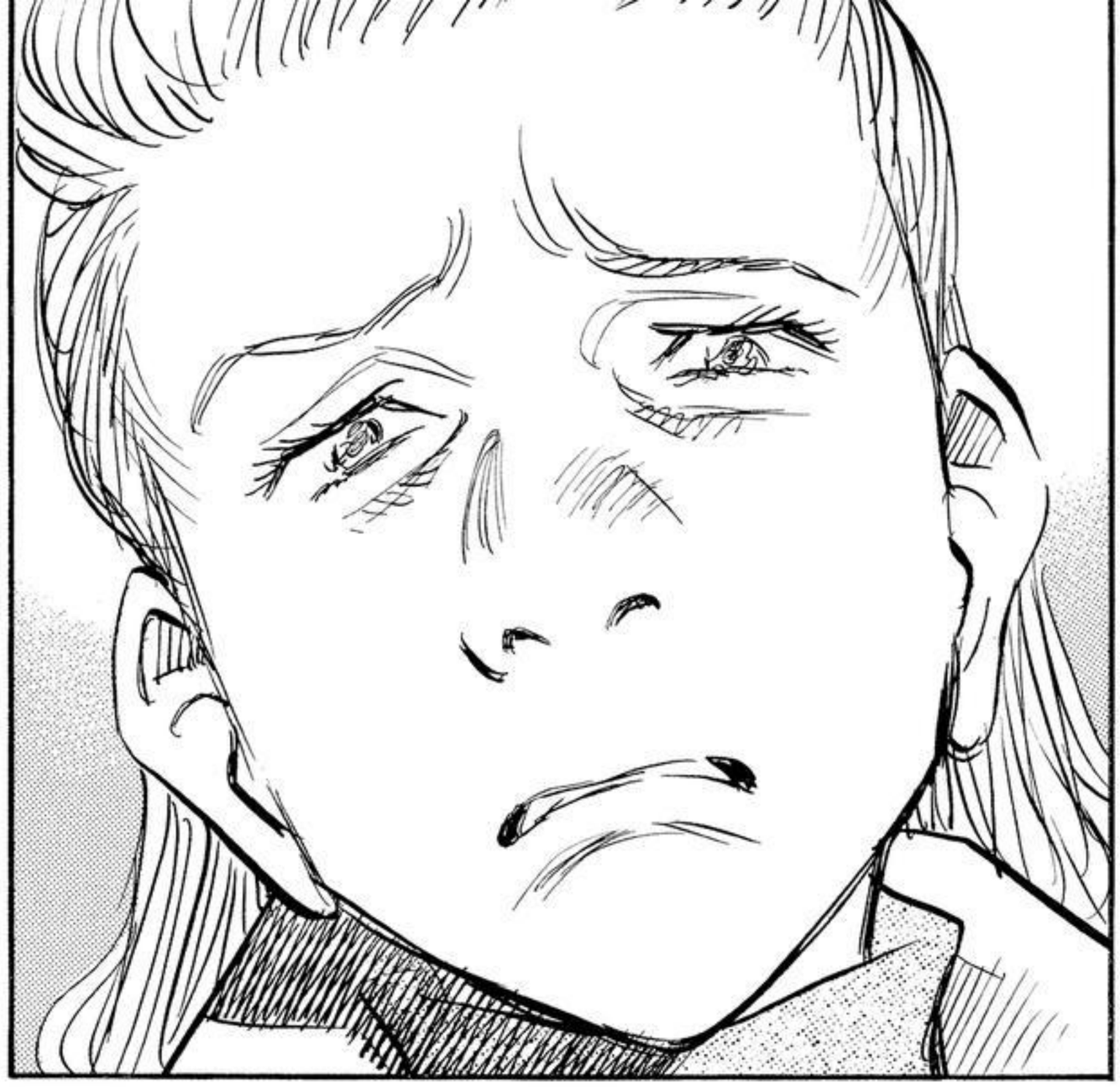
GO AHEAD AND CRY, HELENA...

THAT'S WHAT A HUMAN WOULD DO...

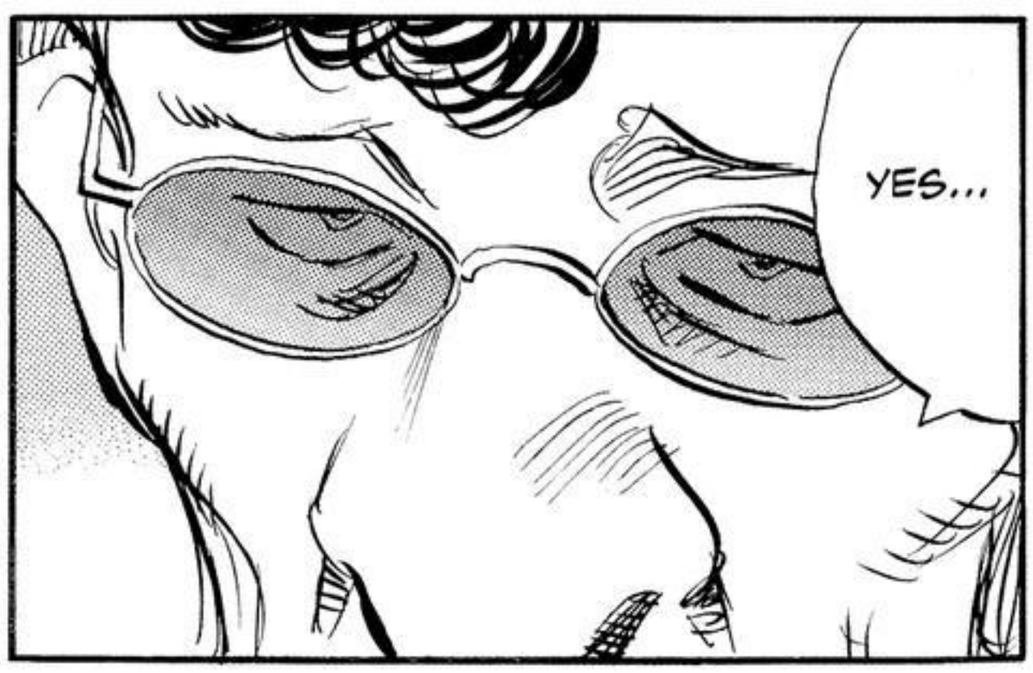
THAT'S RIGHT...



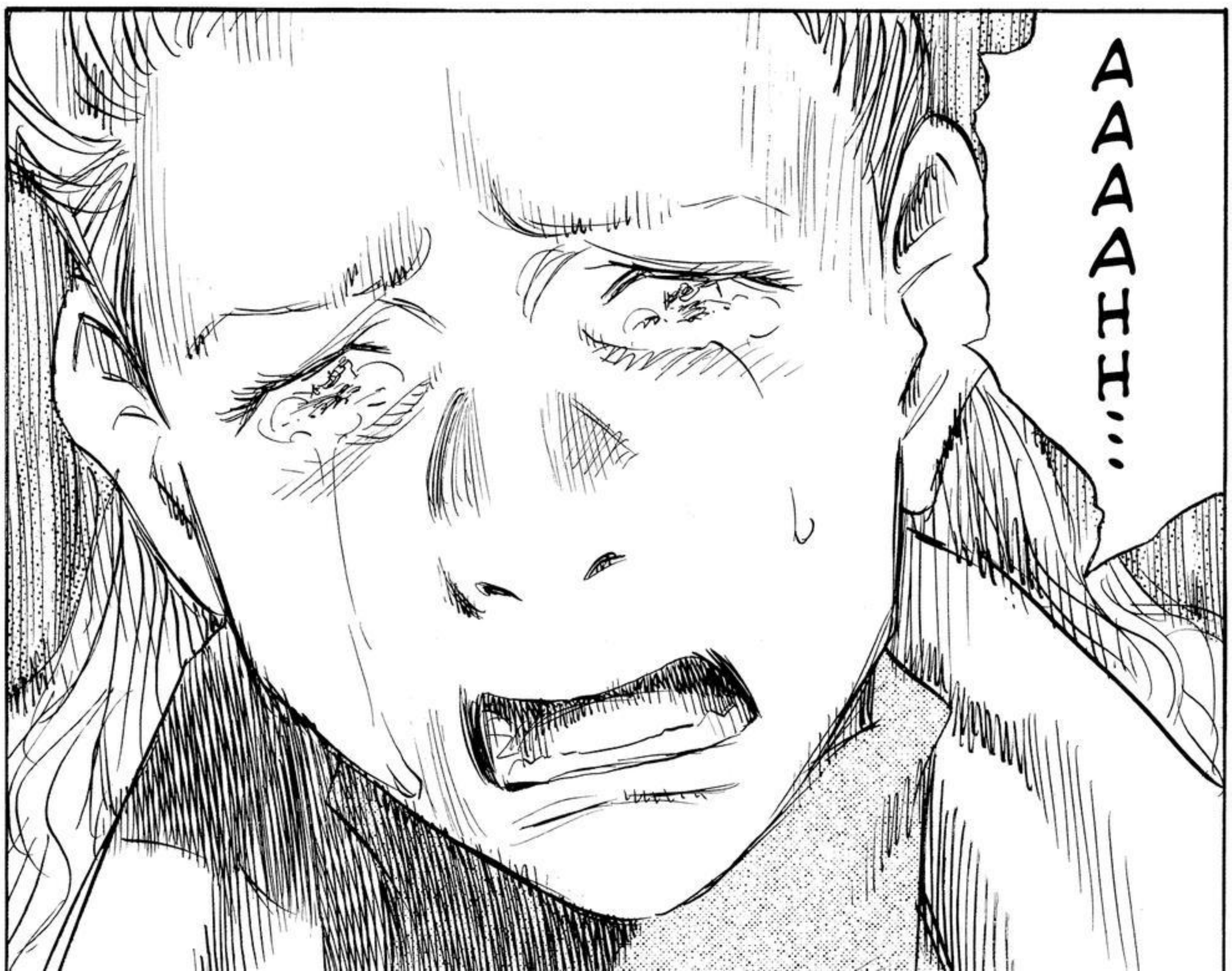




TO START OFF, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE ONLY IMITATING...


YES...

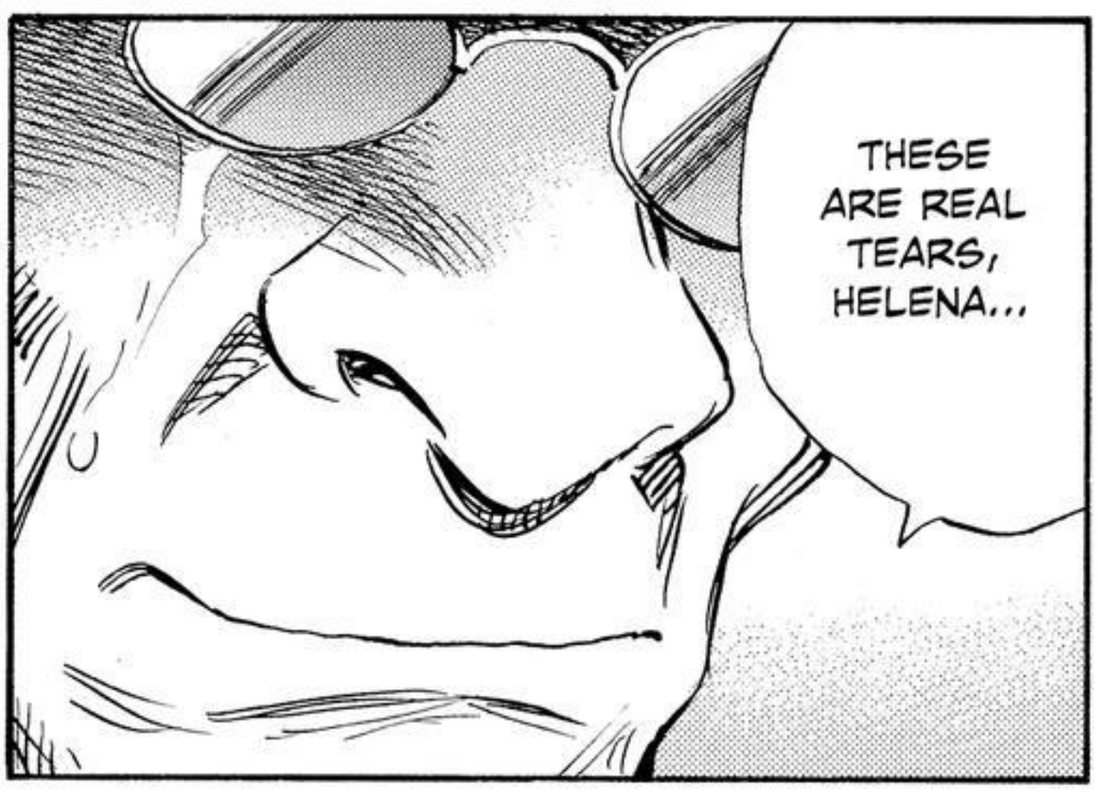
AH...
AAHHH...

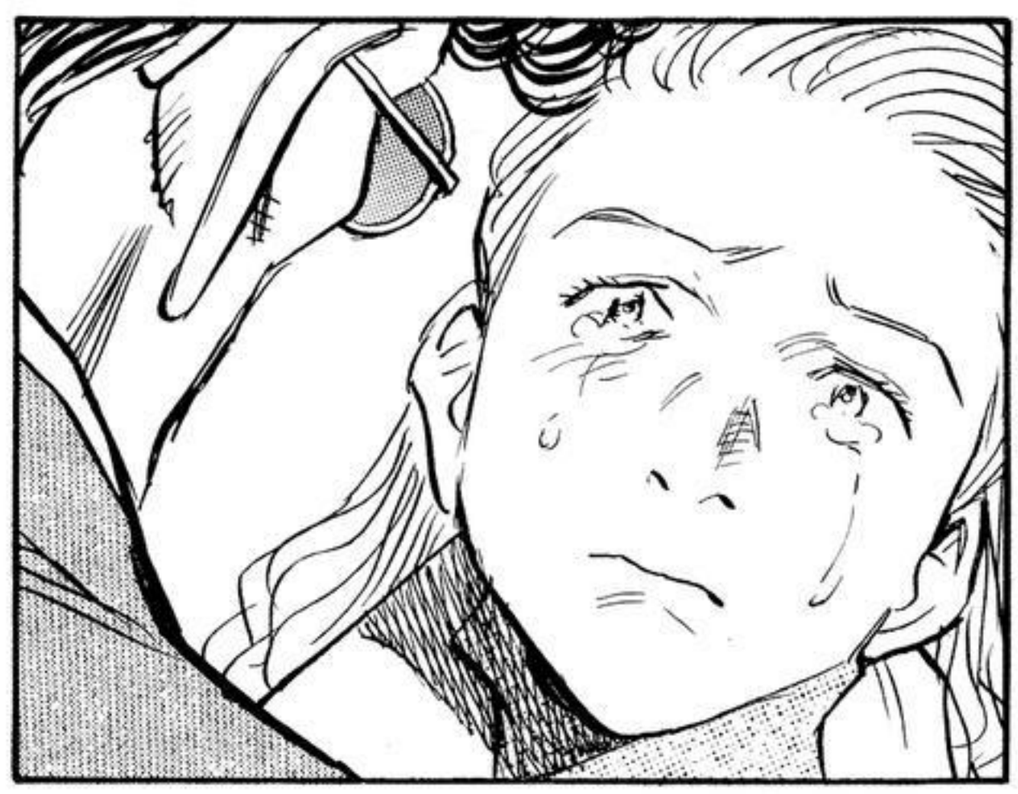

AAAHH...

AAAAH!!

WHAT STARTS AS IMITATION SOON BECOMES REAL...
THAT'S RIGHT, HELENA. YOU DID WELL.

SOON, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRULY WEEP, JUST LIKE ME...


THESE ARE REAL TEARS, HELENA...



I, TOO, AM GRIEVING... FOR THE DEATH OF ATOM...

PLUTO: URASAWA × TEZUKA
VOLUME 7
VIZ SIGNATURE EDITION

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SUPERVISED BY Macoto Tezka
WITH THE COOPERATION OF Tezuka Productions

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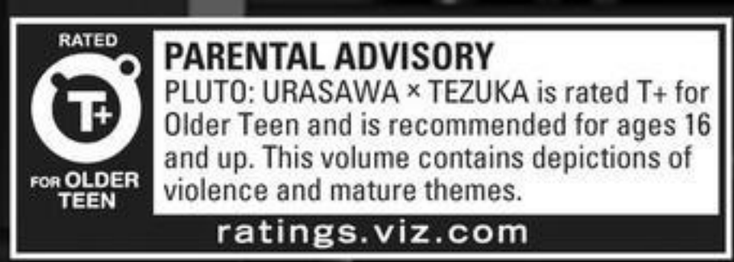
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